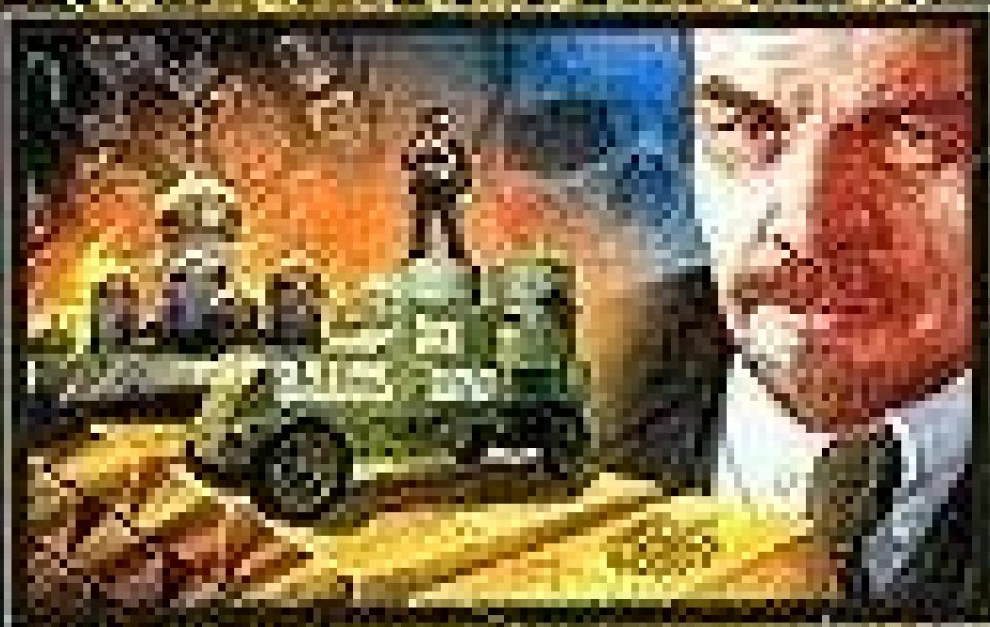


ИГОРЬ БУНИЧ

ЗОЛОТО

ПАРТИИ



Igor Bunich

Party Gold

Part 1. Invasion

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, in his passionate dreams of a world revolution, realized that the first step towards the realization of this dream should be the armed seizure of any state with its resources, economic potential and, of course, gold reserves. It must be said that he did not mean at all Russia with its eternal economic deficit, huge public debt and empty treasury. Lenin looked closely at Switzerland, considering this small country ideal for the implementation of his plans for world domination. Located in the center of Europe, multilingual (a ready-made International!), entangling the whole world with its golden tentacles through the international system of banks, it was Switzerland, according to the leader's plan, that was to become the base from which the revolution would begin its victorious march across Europe, making its way, like battering ram, thousands of tons of Swiss gold.

Experts believe that Lenin's "Zurich" dreams were caused by his own lack of money, because after the death of his mother, money transfers from Russia stopped coming, and he did not know how to earn a living - which caused him an exacerbation of schizophrenia with sweet visions that took the form of Swiss armored safes. banks. However, it was not Switzerland that fell into the clutches of the leader of the proletariat, but, unfortunately, Russia, which quickly and effectively turned into a springboard for the world revolution. Lenin's policy was simple, like everything ingenious. It was based on what Ilyich did not tire of repeating in his countless speeches, articles, theses and notes, was the main idea of socialism proclaimed in the "Communist Manifesto" by K. Marx, which is that "the workers have no fatherland" and therefore the socialists should never, under any circumstances, defend the interests of the state. Such a formulation of the question instantly gave brilliant results. Today, having discarded the husk of crazy ideological theories and incantations, looking at the events from a seventy-five-year distance, perhaps for the first time we will try to explain in a simple and accessible language what happened in Russia in October 1917. And then it will become much clearer what happened three-quarters of a century later - in August 1991 ...

And then the following happened. Taking advantage of the democratic chaos after the overthrow of the monarchy, the power in the country was seized by an international terrorist organization financed in the name of its own salvation by Germany. This has never happened before in the history of mankind. And the fact that this was possible came as a complete surprise to the world, no less, however, than to its participants themselves - a bunch of adventurers from different tribes gathered around their half-mad leader. Least of all, it was they who believed in their success, and therefore behaved accordingly. Holding at the ready foreign passports, ready at any moment to disappear from Russia as unexpectedly as they appeared in it, the Bolsheviks began to plunder the country's national treasure, dragging it to dark corners and transporting it abroad. At first, this was done hastily and clumsily. No one knew whether it would be possible to continue the robbery tomorrow, and therefore everything that was possible had to be taken today. At the same time, it was necessary to get rid of competition from criminal elements who did not want to share booty with the new government, whose slogan "Rob

stolen!" - found an immediate response from the multi-million Russian mob. However, this slogan did not call for robberies at all, which they quickly managed to verify, since they were mercilessly shot without trial or investigation on the spot.

The new government, being a better organized and armed gang, absolutely did not want to waste precious time on any legal justification for their actions. Nevertheless, an ideological substantiation was necessary, and, having been born in the insanely brilliant, sick head of the leader, its boundless utopianism terrified even his closest accomplices. All the valuables stolen from the people by tsarism and the exploiters are taken away by the Bolsheviks for the sole purpose of subsequently distributing them equally among all the working people who are now freed from any kind of exploitation. "My God! the cowardly-naive Bukharin exclaimed, "is it really possible to believe in this?" - "They will believe, dog krev!" Dzerzhinsky soothed him, and his eyes shone narcotic like diamonds confiscated for the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

Indeed, they believed! Perhaps because the belief in fairy tales, where the good Ivan the Fool, having become king, distributes his entire treasury and the treasury of the executed boyars to all the people equally, arranging a three-week feast-mountains on this occasion, lived too deeply in the soul of the kind, naive and eternally deceived people.

Those who did not believe in this "linden fairy tale" were shot, drowned in barges, burned in churches, gassed in basements without trial or investigation. "Be exemplary merciless! Ilyich taught. "Shoot without asking anyone and without allowing idiotic red tape!" The mass killings, pioneered in the world by the Bolsheviks against their own people, played their part, of course, by enabling the gang of bastards to hold on to power, and this shocked the whole world, which frivolously predicted the imminent and imminent collapse of the bloody regime. The world simply did not know these new "Bolshevik" methods, and if they knew, they would never have believed that such methods could be put into practice in the 20th century, and even in a country that quite recently considered itself European.

But more terrible than the KGB bullets was the bacillus of universal equality released by the Bolsheviks. It was she who brought the multimillion Russian masses under the banner of international terrorists, it was precisely in the name of universal equality that countless expropriations, confiscations, nationalizations were carried out, it was precisely her altar that brought innumerable victims, it was she who allowed the Bolsheviks to stay in power, and it was precisely because of her that their opponents were defeated who tried by the power of logic and reason to stop the mass madness that had engulfed the country. The madness of Bolshevism is a disease, something like the madness of a nation; unfortunately, sociologists will make this diagnosis too late, believing that psychiatrists should work further. "Socialism is an ideology of envy," Berdyaev defined back in 1918, but, fortunately, no one heard him, otherwise they would have been destroyed on the spot. The bacillus of rabies or the ideology of envy, or both. Let the scientists of the future figure out how such a crude bait managed to catch the peoples of a vast country who believed in the possibility of building the Kingdom of God on blood and robbery. While the people, bleeding and sweating, were waiting for their new leaders to finally begin to distribute the captured wealth so that the people's commissar and the washerwoman received their equally equal shares, events developed, as they say, in a completely different scenario.

Few people today understand that the world's first Socialist state of workers and peasants, "created" in October 1918 by Lenin, was essentially a German protectorate until the very collapse of Germany, that is, until November 1918. The Germans, grateful to Lenin for the collapse of the Eastern Front, as well as for the subsequent collapse of the Russian Empire, provided military and moral support to the newborn first-born of all regimes. The Germans not only helped the Bolsheviks' conspiracy against the young and naive Russian democracy with millions of subsidies from the German General Staff, they also took a direct part in the October coup, providing troops for their

"prisoners of war" the defense of Petrograd from the Cossacks of General Krasnov and leading the bombardment and capture of the Moscow Kremlin.

Having thanked the benefactors with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which gave almost half of the European part of the former Russian Empire under German occupation, Lenin received in return complete freedom of hands in the territory controlled by his gang. However, they had no idea how much time was allotted for this control. The Germans gradually began to understand what kind of company they brought to power in Russia, looking with horror at the methods of the Bolsheviks to introduce the promised happiness to the population that fell under their yoke, and began to think about whether to replace this terrible regime with some other, more decent. In principle, this was very easy to do: from 48 to 72 hours it took the German troops to occupy Petrograd and Moscow. However, having received an unheard-of gift in the form of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which they never dreamed of even in their most beautiful dream, while negotiating with representatives of various political groups in pre-Bolshevik Russia, with the surviving members of the Imperial House, the Provisional Government and generals, and offering their assistance in overthrowing the Bolsheviks, the Germans set the only condition: confirmation of the articles of the Brest Treaty! Everyone denied this condition with horror, but the Germans did not make any concessions. Some were killed by greed, others by honesty.

Lenin knew about the German intrigues behind his back and was nervous, expecting with fear every day that the German bayonets would throw him off the All-Russian throne as quickly as they had erected him. The situation did not allow to waste time, and we must pay tribute to Lenin as a "godfather" with iron nerves, who did not immediately let his accomplices dying of fear and panicking from his inner circle run away.

Later, in a sincere private letter, Nikolai Bukharin recalled with delight: "Who, if not Lenin, having robbed first the Socialist-Revolutionaries, and then the Mensheviks, hit them all on the head, picked up a club and even talked to us only after he himself will decide. And we were silent and obeyed, and everything, contrary to the theory and the program, turned out great!

Denikin near Tula, we were packing our suitcases, in our pockets there were already false passports and "petit-meti", and I, a big lover of birds, seriously planned to catch parrots in Argentina. But who, if not Lenin, was completely calm and said and predicted: "The situation has never been worse. But we have always been lucky and will be lucky!"

What kind of "peti-meti" are these that the Bolsheviks were preparing for export from the country, laying routes right up to Argentina?

Having barely settled in Petrograd after the coup, when the German "internationalists" were still digging in at the Pulkovo heights, and the battleship Zarya Svoboda (the former Emperor Alexander II) was guarding the approaches to Petersburg from the south with its twelve-inch guns, Lenin, not yet knowing how he would turn around case, with his characteristic cynicism, has already announced "the attack of the Red Guards on capital." Palaces were looted, including the Winter Palace, [1] banks, jewelry stores, cash desks of large trading enterprises, private mutual aid funds, and bank branches in factories were seized.

Not everything went as smoothly as we wanted at first. Somewhere else armed guards were shooting back, somewhere private individuals resisted, somewhere it was impossible it was necessary to find vaults of gold and jewelry or keys to safes, somewhere, without thinking about the consequences, unarmed bank employees and officials of the Ministry of Finance bravely resisted - people, as a rule, are elderly, because all the youth was eaten up by the war. But that was only at the beginning.

Recovering their breath, looking around and realizing that no one would seriously interfere with them and would not offer organized resistance, the Bolsheviks began to act more methodically, but did not

less purposeful. On November 13, 1917, Lenin gave the following order: "The employees of the State Bank who refused to recognize the Government of Workers and Peasants - the Council of People's Commissars - and hand over the affairs of the bank, should be arrested. (Signed) Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars: VI. Ulyanov (Lenin); Secretary of the Council of People's Commissars: N. Gorbunov.

The essence of the conflict was two circumstances. Firstly, the bank's unwillingness to open its gold vault, and secondly, the failure to comply with Lenin's order to immediately open a personal account for it and transfer five million gold rubles from the bank's assets to it, followed by claiming any amounts to this account without any right failure. Only Lenin himself or Gorbunov could withdraw money from this account. Together with employees of the State Bank, employees of all commercial and private banks in the capital were seized.

We must pay tribute to the courage of ordinary Russian financial officials, whose names, for the most part, have remained unknown. Being under arrest and subjected to torture and humiliation, they fought to the end for the Russian financial system created over decades, but not a single financier in the world can personally resist armed robbery organized at the highest state level.

Complete impunity and global irresponsibility made it possible to expand the scope of the robbery. In December, the "nationalization" of the State Bank of Russia is announced, as well as the expropriation of all private and commercial banks. By an additional decree of December 23, 1917, payments of dividends on shares and shares of private enterprises, as well as all transactions with securities, are terminated. All Russian banks are being liquidated, banking is declared a monopoly of the party in the person of a single so-called "people's bank". Representatives of the executive power in the territory controlled by the Bolsheviks "are given the right to confiscate, requisition, sequestration, forced syndication of various industries and trade and other activities in the field of production, distribution and state financing."

Since November 1917, the confiscation "in favor of the people" of industrial enterprises began. It began with the confiscation of the Likinskaya manufactory. On December 9, 1917, at a meeting of the Council of People's Commissars chaired by Lenin, a decision was made to confiscate the property of the Simsky Joint Stock Company of Mining Plants; "the people". The looting of the country's national wealth proceeded rapidly, with increasing efficiency and was not limited to the level of large banks and joint-stock companies with world fame. In the excitement of a hunter seeking not to miss prey, even small ones, Lenin instructs Dzerzhinsky to urgently register all persons who could potentially have any family heirlooms and savings.

These included:

"1. Persons belonging to the wealthy classes, that is, having an income of 500 rubles. per month or more; owners of urban real estate, shares and sums of money over 1000 rubles, as well as employees in banks, joint-stock enterprises, state and public institutions, are obliged within 24 hours (Lenin was impatient, although even the chief of the newly created political police was forced to replace this period for a three-day period) to submit to the house committees in triplicate applications signed and indicating the address of their income, service and occupations.

2. House committees affix these statements with their signatures, keeping one copy for themselves and submitting the remaining two copies to the City Council and the People's Council.

Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD).

3. Persons guilty of non-compliance with this law (in failure to submit applications or in submitting false information) ... are punished with a fine of up to 5,000 rubles.[2] for each evasion, up to one year in prison or sent to the front, depending on the degree of guilt.

4. The persons referred to in paragraph 1 are obliged to always carry with them copies of the above statements, provided with a certificate of house committees, as well as superiors or elective institutions.

5. These persons are obliged, within a week from the date of the publication of this law, to acquire consumer work cards (a sample is attached) for keeping weekly records of income and expenses and for entering certificates from committees and institutions into books ... ".

Like all Lenin's documents, this one was drawn up in full accordance with the task set. An income of 500 rubles a month and more hits the merchants, starting from the very average, and the intelligentsia, especially its creative part - the bar, journalists, publishers. But real estate worth 1,000 rubles immediately covers all the small things - the owners of tiny shops, Okhta vegetable gardens, houses on Vyborgskaya. This document in spirit and content resembles the orders of the German occupation authorities for the registration of Jews.[3] From him emanates indisputable evidence that the country was occupied by shameless and merciless conquerors, although few then could understand this. But Lenin's impulse did not end there. But what about those who have less income, and real estate not for 1000 rubles, but, say, for 25? And the leader ends his famous message to Comrade Dzerzhinsky with the famous paragraph 7, confirming his legendary

genius:

"7. Persons who do not meet the conditions of clause 1 submit to the house committees in one copy statements about their income and place of work, pledging to have with them a copy of this statement certified by the house committee.

What is there to understand! Rob - so all without exception. Those who had the stupidity to register, and not run in the middle of the night across the ice of the Gulf of Finland or to the south, which was not at all easy, were immediately broken into with searches. These searches sometimes lasted for months, as, for example, at the jeweler Nikolaev or the engineer Kuravsky. Walls were broken, floors were raised, furniture was gutted, the owners were beaten, tortured, their daughters and wives were raped in front of them, and children were tortured. And if something was finally found, even a gold medal for an excellent graduation from the gymnasium, then the head of the family was taken to prison (often forever), and the family was thrown out onto the street ...

In Russia, as in all other countries, hundreds of thousands of people used to keep their savings in banks, using individual safes or, as they were then called, steel boxes. Fees, dividends from shares, interest on capital, etc. were transferred to these boxes. Since the secrecy of deposits is the basis of banking, the names of the owners of steel boxes were often not known to bank employees. The cipher number and key number were all that was known. When seizing the banks, the Bolsheviks, of course, could have cracked and cleaned all these boxes, but this was primitive. It was much more interesting to catch all the owners of individual safes, since it was natural to assume that far from all the money of their owners was stored there. As a result, on December 14, 1917, Lenin approved the decision of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee "On the revision of steel boxes", which stated:

"1. All money kept in bank steel boxes must be deposited into the client's checking account at the State Bank.

Note. Gold in coins and bullion is confiscated and transferred to the national

gold fund.

2. All owners of steel boxes are obliged to immediately appear at the bank with the keys to be present during the inspection of steel boxes.
3. All owners who do not appear within three days are considered to have maliciously evaded the audit.
4. Boxes belonging to maliciously evaded persons are subject to opening by commissions of inquiry appointed by commissioners of the State Bank, and all property contained in them is confiscated by the State Bank into the ownership of the people.

Those who appeared for revision were immediately arrested and the remaining state was beaten out of them, along with their souls.

In parallel with the robbery of the country, measures were taken so that no one could interfere with this process. Of course, the main concern was caused by officers, of whom there were up to 50 thousand in Petrograd alone. After the collapse of the army and the decree on its dissolution that arrived in time, they lived at home, dreaming only of sitting out this terrible time and not thinking in the vast majority of any vigorous activity. Four years of world war was enough for them. But it was not there. A decree was issued, offering, under pain of execution on the spot, all officers to register. Those who came for registration were loaded into barges, which were taken out into the bay, and everyone was drowned there. It was then that the famous concept of the "Hydra of counterrevolution" was born.

The "hydra" was created in this way. Three or four officers were placed with their backs to each other, tied with ropes, then thrown into the water. But these, of course, were exceptional cases when the Chekists really wanted to have fun.

Usually they were simply drowned or shot as class dangerous persons, not for a moment being distracted from the main task - to skin Russia to the bone.

The frightened inhabitants of the northern and central provinces of Russia fled in thousands to the south, trying to break through to Ukraine, whose independence was guaranteed by the Brest Treaty and provided by German troops, who stood in a cordon along the border with the RSFSR from Ukraine to the Baltic states, protecting, on the one hand, the Bolsheviks from invasion from the outside and not allowing them to expand the boundaries of their own territory. Refugees were not allowed through, they were turned back, those who broke through were given out, and Lenin's decree "on illegal border crossing" was already in force, which provided, as usual, for execution. Relatives and friends of many people who remained in the territory occupied by the Bolsheviks, in desperation, bombarded the Hetman government of Ukraine with petitions, begging to intervene and help their families escape from the communist "paradise".

The government of Ukraine turned to the Germans with a request for help. They sounded the ground in Moscow through their ambassador Mirbach. To the surprise of the Germans, Lenin accepted this proposal almost with enthusiasm. If the Hetman's government cares so much about the "parasitic classes", then the Soviet government has nothing against deporting as many people as it likes to Ukraine, but... not for free. Let Kiev draw up lists with names and addresses and send them to Moscow. For each refugee, £2,000 or gold will have to be paid.

However, Lenin waved his hand, you can use grain, to hell with you. Just hurry, time is running out. The last words of the leader contained such a transparent hint that very soon echelons with bread, then known to all of Russia as

"hetman echelons". They brought freedom and life to many doomed. Trains full of refugees who had relatives and friends in Ukraine moved south. At the border stations, the refugees were searched, robbed to the skin. Trains stopped for days. There were no guarantees. Anyone could suddenly be arrested, or even shot right on the platform.

But these, as they say, were still flowers. There were not so many very rich people in Russia, and they were all in sight. There were more middle-class people, about whom Lenin wrote with such lust to Dzerzhinsky, but even they made up a very small percentage of the total population. Therefore, it was easy to rob and destroy them, and it must be admitted that they had almost no public support, because the ideology of envy did its job.

But there were tens of millions of small owner-workers: saddlers, sheepskin workers, tanners, shoemakers, wax workers, carpenters, cabinetmakers, chasers, glassblowers, roofers, stove-makers, ofeni, sawyers, bookbinders, gold seamstresses, lacemakers, photographers, icon painters - in short, the entire working population of the country. With great diligence and for our days absolutely incredible craftsmanship (take at least old bindings or lace), in the face of fierce competition, they managed to save up some money over the years. All of them, quite rightly, considered themselves working people, in whose name and in whose name the Bolshevik gang spoke. Unlike factory workers, who have a long, but fixed working day, they worked day and night without a break, only allowing themselves days off at Christmas and Easter. Who were the working people, if not them? They thought so and, as it turned out, completely in vain. The Bolsheviks could not feel satisfied without ripping them off. There were too many working people in Rus', and all together they could add to the party treasury almost half of what they managed to shake out of the big bourgeoisie and intelligentsia.

Interestingly, for some reason, it was precisely these small owner-workers that aroused much greater hatred in Lenin than the big capitalists. This happened because the "leader of the world proletariat", being smarter and more cunning than all his accomplices put together, looked a little further than his surroundings. If those, fulfilling the task entrusted to them to plunder Russia to the skin and be in constant readiness to immediately disappear with their fantastic prey, devoted their energy and "revolutionary enthusiasm" to this, then Lenin, who carefully monitored the situation in the country and the world, already saw a theoretical opportunity to stay in power.

The entry of the United States into the war every day made the situation of Kaiser Germany, despite the absence of an eastern front, more and more desperate, bringing it closer to an economic and military catastrophe, and consequently to surrender. This, in turn, meant the annulment of the Brest Treaty and the transformation of the "Republic of Soviets" from a German protectorate into something completely independent and unpredictable. It was necessary to come to this day properly prepared, for which it was completely insufficient to liquidate only the bourgeoisie and the intelligentsia. It was easy and simple. Now the task was more difficult, but, as you know, there are no such tasks that the Bolsheviks would not be able to handle.

"The main enemy of socialism," Lenin said, "is the petty-bourgeois element," and continued, "The petty bourgeois have a reserve of money of several thousand, accumulated by 'truths' and, especially, 'untruths' ... Money is evidence of obtaining social wealth, and the multimillion-strong layer of small proprietors firmly holds this evidence, hiding it from the state, not believing in any socialism and communism. The petty bourgeois who keeps thousands of dollars is an enemy, and he wants to sell these thousands to himself without fail. No, money in other people's pockets haunts Lenin! And it was not only about money, although the money, of course, had to be taken away in the first place. After all, small proprietors (including farmers) are the entire amateur population of a huge

countries. Independent, and therefore independent. And the long-term task of the leader of the "world proletariat" was not only to rob them, but also to completely deprive them of their independence, turning them into slaves, into an obedient mechanism for fulfilling his will. Lenin did not hesitate to teach his accomplices how to realize their grandiose plans.

"The grain monopoly, the bread card, universal labor service is in the hands of the proletarian state, in the hands of the sovereign soviets, the most powerful means of accounting and control. This means of control and coercion to work is stronger than the laws of the convention and its guillotine. The guillotine only intimidated, only broke active resistance. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH FOR US.

We need not only to intimidate the capitalists in the sense that they feel the omnipotence of the proletarian state and forget to think about active resistance to it. We must also break down the passive, undoubtedly even more dangerous and harmful resistance. We need not only to break any resistance. We need to force them to work within the new organizational state framework. And we have a means for this ... This means is the grain monopoly, the grain card, universal labor service.

Can't be more clear. If one manages to stay in power (and in order to stay), it is necessary to concentrate in the hands of all the wealth of the country (which has already been done), all bread, all food, all housing, in general, everything on which simply survival depends, and then distribute it in such a way that just for a bread card, a starving and humiliated by hunger person would go to work and generally do everything that is ordered. Brilliant and simple. Although it is still not entirely clear to whom this brilliant principle applies? The words "capitalist", "bourgeois", "kulak" are some vague concepts, and Lenin himself, entangled in labels, could not clearly define these concepts in terms of income, salary, general condition, lowering the lower limit of the definition "rich classes" to an income of 100 rubles a month. And so that no one would have any doubts about who, after all, is the main object of robbery and violence, Lenin, without any omissions, explains: relevant principles (bread card, labor conscription and coercion) to the majority of working workers and peasants ... Obedience should be sought, and, moreover, unquestioningly the sole orders of Soviet leaders, dictators, elected or appointed, equipped with dictatorial powers ... "

The members of the Central Committee turned white with fear. This is no longer a class struggle, this is a war declared on the whole people. Firstly, it is dangerous, and secondly... "But what will be left of Russia? the faithful Bonch-Bruевич babbles in horror. "After all, this means the complete destruction of Russia in the form in which it existed for 1000 years..."

With a sharp movement, Lenin thrusts his thumbs into the armholes of his vest, his jacket swings open, the slits of his eyes are prickly and look unkindly at the Manager of the Council of People's Commissars. The rest are silent. "Remember, my friend," says Lenin, turning to Bonch-Bruевич, but in such a way that everyone can hear, "remember I DON'T CARE FOR RUSSIA, FOR I AM A BOLSHEVIK!" This favorite expression of Lenin became the motto of his accomplices, who liked to repeat it both out of place and out of place, until Iosif Vissarionovich gagged their throats with bullets, since this terrible phrase of Lenin did not fit in with the Stalinist "heretical" theory about the possibility of "building socialism in one country." So, war was declared. In an instant, the entire infrastructure of cities, which had been developing over decades, was destroyed, all types of trade froze, and the service sector ceased to exist. Homeowners and innkeepers who did not manage to escape were either killed, or arrested, or, at best, thrown into the street. Broken or clogged with plywood shop windows looked at the deserted snow-covered streets of shops and restaurants once famous throughout Europe, first-class hotels, hotels and clubs. But

not only them. Shops, shops, inns, workshops and ateliers, furnished rooms and boarding houses - all ceased to exist. Naturally, everything immediately disappeared from the sale, and above all, bread.

"What is the suppression of the bourgeoisie? Lenin explained. The landowner can be suppressed and destroyed by the fact that landownership is abolished and the land is transferred to the peasants. But can the bourgeoisie be suppressed and destroyed by the destruction of big capital? Anyone who has studied the ABC of Marxism knows that it is impossible to suppress the bourgeoisie in this way, that the bourgeoisie is born out of commodity production; under these conditions of commodity production, the peasant who has hundreds of poods of extra grain, which he does not hand over to the state, and speculates—what is this? This is not the bourgeoisie? .. That's what's scary, that's where the danger for the social revolution "And, of course, having destroyed the entire trade system in the country, any sale of food was immediately declared speculation (a wonderful word that marched victoriously towards communism all 74 years of the existence of the regime, surviving the regime itself and, it seems, securing immortality in our country).

Already on November 10, 1917, the speculators were declared enemies of the people, and three months later, in a decree signed by Lenin, a clear indication was given: "speculators ... are shot at the scene of the crime"

And on the houses, on the fences, on the lampposts, orders turned white everywhere: "The confiscation of all property and execution awaits those who decide to circumvent the laws on exchange, sale and purchase that exist and were issued by the Soviet government ..."

The brilliant pen of Zinaida Gippius brought to us the nightmarish reality of that terrible era: "... by virtue of countless (sometimes contradictory and confused, but always threatening) decrees, everything was "nationalized" - "bolshevized". Everything was considered to belong to the "state" (the Bolsheviks).

Not to mention the remaining factories and factories - but all shops, all shops, all enterprises and institutions, all houses, all real estate, almost all movables (large ones) - all this, in theory, passed into the control and ownership of the state. The decrees were directed towards the realization of this idea. It cannot be said that the incarnation went smoothly. In the end, it was just a desire to take everything into their own hands. And for the most part it ended with the destruction and destruction of what was declared "nationalized".

The seized shops, enterprises and factories were closed, the seizure of private trade led to the cessation of all trade in general, to the closure of all shops and to the terrible development of illegal, speculative, thieves' trade. The Bolsheviks involuntarily had to look at it through their fingers and only periodically smash and grab the buyers and sellers on the streets, in private premises, in the markets; markets, the only source of food for absolutely everyone, were also illegal. Terrorist raids on markets, with shooting and killing, ended up simply looting food for the benefit of the raiding party. Food is first of all, but since there is no thing that cannot be found on the market, the rest was also taken: door handles, bronze candlesticks, an ancient velvet gospel, furniture upholstery ... Furniture was also considered the property of the state, and since a sofa cannot be dragged under a hollow, then people tore off the upholstery and strove to sell it at least for half a pound of straw bread ... One should have seen how the merchants rushed in all directions with squeals, screams and groans at the hearing that the Red Army soldiers were close! Everyone grabbed their junk ... they ran, pushed, climbed into empty cellars, through broken windows. Buyers also hurried there - after all, buying in the Soviet of Deputies is no less criminal than selling, although Zinoviev himself knows perfectly well that without this crime, the Soviet of Deputies would have ended, for lack of subjects, in 10 days.

Russia is now controlled by an insignificant handful of people, towards whom the rest of the population, in the vast majority, is negative and even hostile. It turns out a true picture of foreign conquest.

Latvian, German, Austrian, Hungarian and Chinese regiments complete this picture. The personal guards of the Bolsheviks were made up of Latvians and Mongols.

The Chinese shoot those arrested and captured. (I almost wrote "convicted", but there are no convicts, because there is no trial of the captured. They are simply shot) ... Why not the Mongol yoke?

This was the situation in the occupied cities. But Russia is an agrarian country, and the vast majority of its population, its breadwinners - the army of millions of peasants - could not be robbed and crushed, because in addition to gold coins in capsules, which, as I recall, constantly irritated Ilyich and did not give him rest, they also owned a powerful equivalent of gold - bread. And without a grain monopoly, the leader of the world proletariat simply did not know what to do next, "if the Bolsheviks manage to retain power." And although during this period the possibility of retaining power looked very doubtful, it was absolutely impossible to leave such a large percentage of the captured population unrobbed.

The energy of mass madness radiated by Lenin prompted the best solutions. "Our most important task," declared the leader, "is the task of setting the peasants against the landowners first, and then, and not even then, but at the same time, setting the workers against the peasants!"

But it was necessary not only to set different categories of the population against each other, which in the language of the Bolsheviks was called the class struggle, but under the guise of this struggle, to clean to the skin all the parties involved in this "struggle". Because the question, whatever one may say, was posed quite frankly: it was necessary to deprive the peasant of the right to sell his grain and simply seize it on behalf of the state, without paying, of course, a penny. This could be done in only one way - by force, because no one imagined that the peasants would be so simple - for free, they would give their bread. Therefore, they quickly began to form food requisition detachments to confiscate bread (as well as other valuables) from the rural population. But in the countryside things did not go as smoothly as in the cities. The peasants immediately began to put up violent resistance. 245 major peasant uprisings broke out in 1918 in only 20 regions of central Russia. Real battles were played out in villages and villages. The essence of Lenin's plan was to ensure at any cost the "grain monopoly", since without it it was impossible to turn the two hundred million population of a huge country into slaves.

"Not a single pood of grain," the leader pointed out, "should remain in the hands of the holders ... Declare everyone who has a surplus of grain and does not take it out to bulk points as enemies of the people, bring them to a revolutionary court so that the perpetrators are sentenced to imprisonment for a term for at least 10 years, were expelled forever from the community, and all their property was confiscated...". But "at least 10 years" with the confiscation of all property was only the beginning. Some time later, in a rage of resistance to wholesale robberies, Lenin will give orders to the right and left as follows: "... A wonderful plan. Refine it with Comrade Dzerzhinsky.

Disguise yourself as the "greens" (and later we will blame it on them!), ride 10-20 versts and hang all the kulaks, priests and landlords. A bonus of 100,000 rubles (probably from his own personal account - I. B.) for each hanged.

Robbery in the villages was worse than in the cities. Peasant houses were subjected to

searches. Along with bread, any valuables that could be found in the simple atmosphere of village huts were confiscated. Not to mention money, even cheap women's jewelry made of "blown" gold, icon settings, various trifles, bought at the time at county fairs. Bread, as a rule, did not go anywhere further than the county center, where it fell off at random and for the most part disappeared and rotted. The brutalized peasants with clubs and pitchforks went to the machine guns.

"Despite the mountains of corpses," one of the perpetrators reported to Moscow, "their fury is indescribable." Many food detachments were exterminated on their way to the village. Following this, a punitive expedition was sent to the village, which, having publicly shot two dozen peasants, arrested and drove the rest to the city. A new detachment arrived, but it was exterminated again on the day of arrival. A new punitive expedition followed, and everything started all over again, gradually taking the form of a terrible people's war.

In the summer of 1918, Lenin proposed taking hostages, mainly women and children, from village to village in order to crush peasant resistance. "Take 25-30 hostages from among the rich peasants," Ilyich instructed his gang with ardor, "who would be responsible for the collection and shipment of grain with their lives." But the "Red Terror" has not yet been declared. But the Russian peasants did not feel as helpless as the bourgeoisie and intelligentsia of the cities. The village could not be destroyed by such methods. The first and completely natural reaction of the peasants was the cessation of crops. The naive Russian peasants did not even suspect that such a turn of events only played into the hands of the ruling gang.

Create an artificial famine in the country, shift the blame on the peasants, and then exterminate a dozen or two million disobedient people for this.

Under the protective cordon of German bayonets, Lenin was given freedom of action in the occupied territory with a clear directive: during this time, the Bolshevik government (and the Germans, in their age-old conceit, believed that the time the Bolsheviks were in power was determined by them and would end when they wished) should conduct a series of measures, after the implementation of which Russia, subjected to unprecedented plunder and bloodletting, will once and for all cease to exist as a great empire that poses a threat to the German Reich. The Germans played their game, the Bolsheviks played theirs. But they played, constantly interacting.

After the suppression of the first major uprising of the peasants of the Yaroslavl province, those who miraculously survived the massacre surrendered to the Germans, who had their commandant's offices in all the provinces of "Soviet Russia". These commandant's offices were called German Commissions, and were created within the framework of secret protocols to the Brest Treaty. The Chairman of the German Commission in the Yaroslavl province, German lieutenant Balk, by order of July 21, 1918 (No. 4), announced to the civilian population of the city of Yaroslavl that a detachment of the Northern Volunteer Peasant Army had surrendered to the German Commission. Those who surrendered were handed over to the Bolshevik authorities. All extradited - 428 people - were immediately shot in front of the Germans. Lieutenant Balk, with purely German pedantry, kept a file of persons who passed through his commandant's office, were handed over to the Bolsheviks and immediately shot. Based on the card index, he reported to his command that the Bolsheviks faithfully fulfill all obligations to Germany. By the time the Commission (command's office) was evacuated from the Yaroslavl province, Lieutenant Balk had a file cabinet for 50,247 executed from March to November 1918. And precisely those who had the stupidity to seek protection from the German command!

But the war continued to flare up, dictating its tactics.

discretion. Bread burned, villages burned out, people were destroyed. In response, the peasants organized defense committees, exterminating the requisitioning detachments, often capturing district towns, robbing them, in turn, and destroying all representatives of the hated government with the cruelty of the Pugachev and Razin times. Both sides used medieval methods of execution - burned alive, impaled, torn with trees. A civil war, dear to Lenin's heart, was flaring up, and Russia was rapidly going wild. What, however, was promised when Ulyanov traveled through Germany in March 1917, the "Proletarian" press enthusiastically reported live from the county towns recaptured from the rebel peasants. The correspondent of Pravda reported on the defeat of the peasant uprising in Livny: "The city suffered relatively little. Now the dead and wounded are being removed from the streets of the city. Among the reinforcements who arrived later, there were relatively few casualties. Only the valiant internationalists suffered severe losses. But they literally crumbled mountains of kulak corpses, littering all the streets with them.

Who are these "valiant internationalists" who marched with fire and sword through the inner provinces of Russia, where even during the Tatar invasion the foot of the invader did not set foot, turning the richest Russian granaries into ashes and a lifeless desert? The history of their creation is as follows. Back in March 1917, when the issue of allowing Lenin and his accomplices to Russia was being decided and the preliminary conditions for the future Treaty of Brest-Litovsk were being negotiated, the German command, along with allocating the funds necessary for their subversive activities to the Bolsheviks, decided to provide them with immediate military assistance in case of a seizure of power. For this purpose, in April 1917, with a fake Swedish passport, Colonel of the German General Staff Heinrich von Ruppert arrived in Petrograd, delivering secret orders to German and Austrian prisoners of war to provide armed support to the Bolsheviks, who, in turn, were to provide them with weapons. These orders, signed by the chiefs of the general staffs of Germany and Austria-Hungary, were found by the Americans in the German archives after the Second World War, but they can certainly be found in the archives of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Near Petrograd there were several camps with German and Austrian prisoners of war, including those from very elite units. In particular, near the village of Koltushi, in fact, next to Bolshaya Okhta, the 3rd Cuirassier Regiment of Emperor Wilhelm, captured at one time by the Cossacks of General Rennenkampf, was almost in full strength in the camp. The 142nd Brandenburg Regiment whiled away the time nearby. It makes no sense to list the German and Austro-Hungarian military units that were in the camp prisoners of war, although this is not so difficult to do. Thanks to the democratic lawlessness of the Provisional Government, the prisoners of war were able to get acquainted with the upcoming task and to prepare them thoroughly enough for it.

Everything was thought out to the smallest detail, even the fact that the Germans are not familiar with Russian three-line rifles, revolvers and other weapons. In this regard, the "Bolshevik" patrol ship "Yastreb" specially went to Friedrichshafen, from where it delivered 12,000 German rifles and millions of rounds of ammunition right by October 25, for which he was forever included in the list of "ships of the Great October Revolution". In addition, the "Hawk" brought a ship twice as large as himself in tow. The most honest Soviet historians admit that they never managed to find out what was on this ship. Others simply keep silent about it, while still others claim that there was a "landing of revolutionary sailors." Where they came from in Friedrichshafen, no one specifies, although there is no particular secret here. "Hawk", in addition to rifles, delivered to Petrograd and German field guns. If anyone else remains naive to such an extent that he believes the possibility of taking control of such a huge city as Petrograd, two thousand sailors who arrived on the "Amur" from Kronstadt, or completely untrained workers' squads, who, as it now turns out, met the coup hostile, we won't even argue with them.

Yes, theoretically, with the complete collapse of the garrison and law enforcement agencies, this seems possible. But at the same time, the power of the Bolsheviks would not have lasted even a day, since literally the next day the cavalry of General Krasnov was already approaching the city. Having scattered two untargeted shrapnel volleys of the "Red Guards" in Pavlovsk and Tsarskoe Selo, Krasnov's Cossacks began to move towards the capital from the Pulkovo Heights.

A hundred Ural Cossacks advanced forward tried to immediately take possession of the heights, but were forced to retreat under superbly coordinated and controlled fire. The Cossack officers, who went through the years of the war, quickly understood by the "handwriting" who took up the defense on the heights. Germans! General Krasnov, who did not believe them, went to the outpost himself. There was no doubt. German infantry and artillery barred the way to "revolutionary" Petrograd.

The German and Austrian soldiers, with great pleasure and without much difficulty, suppressed the uprising of military schools in Petrograd, tormenting with grapeshot and bayoneting the unfortunate Russian boys, whose noble suicidal impulse against black tyranny in an atmosphere of general collapse and apathy was not supported by anyone.

On October 29, Lenin decided to hold a review of the German battalions. According to the plan of the leader of the world proletariat, the "internationalists" were supposed to march past Smolny Lenin standing on the steps and members of the "workers' and peasants'" government. Having caught up with them, yesterday's prisoners of war had to shout in unison: "Long live the world revolution!" In German, of course, which both the leader himself and his entourage knew perfectly well, sometimes much better than Russian. But it turned out to be a confusion. Flashing with an old bearing, holding alignment and typing a step, as only the Germans can do, the soldiers, passing by the revolutionary leaders, shouted in chorus: "Long live Kaiser Wilhelm!" - thereby splendidly demonstrating to the deeply offended Lenin his completely correct understanding of what was happening.

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, soon concluded, provided for the repatriation of prisoners of war, but was followed by a secret order from General von Ludendorff instructing German and Austrian[4] prisoners of war to form detachments in support of the Bolshevik government. The order was drawn up in such a way that it was supposed to be a voluntary desire of soldiers and officers to join such detachments, but knowing the orders in the German army and the methods of recruiting "volunteer" units, there is no doubt that in this case he acted, at least at the initial period, just an order.

Members of the German mission for an armistice and the conclusion of peace - General Hoffmann and Colonel Ruppert, already familiar to us - visited several prisoner-of-war camps, explaining to them the task. The opportunity to serve the fatherland, and at the same time to plunder on foreign territory, inspired many, and literally, as if by magic, the Bolsheviks, with the complete collapse of other military structures, bristled with a perfectly trained and organized army, numbering more than three hundred thousand people.

Nobody could oppose anything to such a military force in those days.[5] In those years, none of this special secrets did not. German soldiers and officers, free from service, walked around Petrograd and Moscow, operated casinos for German officers, and published newspapers. And so that no one had any doubts, the German General Kirchbach, giving an interview in Pskov to a correspondent of the still not banned newspaper Rech, to the question: "Is it possible for the German troops to occupy Petrograd and Moscow?", He answered with "Nordic" directness: "Yes, if there is a threat to the Bolshevik regime."

So, three hundred thousand "warriors-internationalists", acquiring along the way with scum from

local population, effectively ensured the destruction of the Russian state. Numerically, they even outnumbered the German occupation forces, which the German command was able to allocate to control the territories ceded under the Brest Treaty. These forces amounted to approximately 280 thousand people, reduced to 43 infantry and seven cavalry divisions with an artillery fleet of 108 heavy and 1614 field guns. About 2,000 sailors were supposed to take control of the former Russian fleet, the bulk of which was transferred to the Germans under the agreement. Admiral Shchastny led the fleet from Helsingfors to Kronstadt, putting Lenin in a completely idiotic position in front of his masters, for which he was shot.

Odessa and the surrounding areas were occupied by the 2nd Eastern Austro-Hungarian Army under the command of General Bem-Ermolit. Three corps of this army deployed occupation headquarters in Odessa, Kherson and Kamenetz-Podolsk. The German Army Group "Kiev", under the command of General Linzinger, and then Field Marshal Eichhorn, who then took overall command of all the occupying forces, occupied a vast territory covering the whole of Ukraine, Crimea, the region of the Don Cossacks, the southern part of Belarus and the coastal regions of Georgia. Six corps of Army Group "Kyiv" deployed occupation headquarters in Gomel, Novograd-Volynsk, Kyiv, Kharkov, Taganrog and Simferopol. North of Polesie, the occupation was carried out by the 10th Army, Army Group D, and the 8th Army, with headquarters in Minsk, Dvinsk, Riga, Revel, and Vyborg. The famous General von der Goltz, the former commander of the Iron Grenadiers division, commanded the German troops in the northwestern direction. On May 25, 1918, the Germans landed a three thousandth assault force in Poti, and on June 10, German troops entered Tiflis.

A few days later, the 58th Berlin Infantry Regiment crossed the Kerch Strait and captured Taman. There were already plans to seize the Siberian railway and "expedient organization in the German interests" of Khiva, Bukhara, Turkestan and Merv.

German troops opened a direct route to India. The prospects were breathtaking. It would seem that the most unbridled dreams came true, there was a new world empire that even Napoleon could not dream of, and besides, with the center not in Paris, but in Berlin. But there was not enough strength to master all the areas of the former Russian Empire given by the Bolsheviks. The meat grinder of the Western Front completely depleted the reserves, and the available 280,000 troops were clearly not enough. At the headquarters of Field Marshal Eichhorn, there was often a temptation to recall hundreds of thousands of their soldiers from the territory controlled by the Bolsheviks, who had changed their Kaiser helmets to something similar in style to the Budyonovka. They were all the more needed because they became adept at robberies and confiscations. But the temptation had to be suppressed. The Germans did not dare to act by Lenin's methods, and the Kaiser Headquarters did not give permission for the use of "internationalists".

Not daring to act in a Bolshevik way, the Germans nevertheless acted by their own methods, which, although they were not so "robbery", were quite persistent, consistent and unconditional. Until July 31, 1918 alone, the Germans removed from the occupied regions 60 million poods of grain and products of its processing, fodder and oilseeds, 500 million eggs, 2,750,000 live weight poods of cattle, and a half million poods of potatoes and vegetables. In addition, 3.5 million poods of iron ore, 42 million poods of manganese ore and 300 wagons of special types of wood were sent to the Reich, choking from the English blockade. Even rags and scrap metal were taken out. There was something to take out. The bombing of Sevastopol by the German battlecruiser Goeben, which thereby drew Turkey into the war against Russia on the side of Germany, almost completely cut off Russia from the allies, as the result was the closure of the straits. Russian foreign trade suffered a terrible blow: Russian exports fell by 98%, imports by 95%, which was one of the main reasons for the military overstrain of Russia and its final collapse in blood and chaos.

Products destined for export had been sitting in warehouses for three years, and were now captured by the Germans and the Bolsheviks. "Never since the invention of the ship's compass," Churchill recalled, "the actions of one warship did not lead to such grandiose and terrible consequences as the actions of the German cruiser Goeben in August-October 1914." The valiant "Goeben" all the years of the war, without a dock and even a berth, kept the Russian Black Sea Fleet in suspense and, as if demonstrating his triumph, came in the summer of 1918 to Sevastopol, captured by German troops, where he underwent dock repairs for the first time in the entire war, because the Germans were given all the equipment of the base safe and sound. Who could have imagined this even in 1917?!

From the territory captured by the Bolsheviks, trains went to Germany in the same stream. German merchant ships, mysterious Swedish and Norwegian ships, some obscure transports under the flags of private owners from Denmark, the USA and Argentina, "fake" hospital ships under the flags of the Swiss Red Cross came to the berths of the Petrograd port. The port area was tightly cordoned off by CHON. For excessive curiosity relied execution on the spot.

Driven into the North Sea to their bases and not daring to lean out of there in fear of the British, the German fleet dominated the Baltic, providing transportation, although the sea teeming with mines (both sides deployed more than 120 thousand mines in the Baltic during the war years) was very dangerous, and only very good reasons could force shipowners to send their transports to the half-dead port of Petrograd.

On the other hand, the railways operated smoothly, linking the republic of the "Soviet and the proletarian dictatorship" with Germany through the territories of Poland, Belarus and the Baltic States captured by German troops. There was also a northern railway line to Helsingfors and further to the Scandinavian countries.

To ensure the uninterrupted operation of the railways, the Germans were forced to supply the Bolsheviks with 50,000 tons of coal. On the evening of April 18, 1918, two trains met at the "border" station Orsha: one was moving to Moscow with the staff of the German embassy, headed by Count Mirbach, the other was carrying employees of the "embassy of the workers' and peasants' government" to Berlin. The composition of the "embassy" was very interesting. It was headed by A. A. Ioffe - a very curious person, to put it mildly. Born in 1883, in the early 1900s he fell under the hypnotic charm of the famous Parvus and, having gone through the school of his great teacher, he perfectly understood the very simple truth that before you make a world revolution, you must first collect enough money to carry it out. Together with Trotsky, Uritsky, Volodarsky and Ganetsky. Ioffe represented the "guard" of Parvus under Lenin, maintaining direct contact with the Germans until October 1917, and then actually leading the "Soviet" delegation at the peace talks in Brest-Litovsk. And, of course, it was he who was sent to Berlin, where, among other things, he met with his beloved teacher - Parvus.

Together with him, as part of the "embassy", rode Ya. S. Ganetsky, Lenin's right hand during the years of the "leader's" existence in Krakow, where, as is known, he was arrested in the first days of the war as a Russian spy. It was Ganetsky who, having rushed to Berlin, raised the "Social Democrats" in the German capital and Vienna to their feet, achieving not only the release of Lenin, but also his transfer to Zurich by an emergency train.[6] In 1915, Ganetsky was summoned by Parvus to Stockholm, from where all the subversive activities of German intelligence against Russia were directed. In March 1917, by agreement between Lenin and Parvus, Ganetsky temporarily remained in Stockholm as part of the so-called "foreign bureau of the Central Committee", whose task was to transfer funds from the Germans to Russia - to the Bolsheviks. With the help of Parvus, Ganetsky established numerous contacts with foreign banks. After the October Revolution, he was appointed chief

commissar of banks and a member of the collegium of the People's Commissariat of Finance, that is, he was a member of the leadership of institutions that commanded robberies and accepted loot, keeping records of it in the controlled territory. ("Socialism is accounting").

The third member of the embassy was the famous Krasin, who, it would seem, would not need to be introduced if at least one word of truth had been written about him over the past 75 years. A gifted engineer, he had the soul and skills of a professional criminal, and therefore, with instinct and intuition, he was drawn to the Bolsheviks. During the revolution of 1905, together with the people of Parvus, he participated in the robbery of the St. Petersburg branch of the Volga-Kama Bank, embezzling a significant amount of money, which displeased Parvus. However, Parvus soon had to urgently flee abroad, and Krasin remained in Russia, having developed vigorous activity between the two revolutions.

The range of his hobbies could amount to several volumes of a criminal case: from organizing raids on bank vans and preparing to disable the entire metropolitan cable electrical network to making counterfeit money and trivially killing policemen. A daring and resolute adventurer who loved risky actions, Krasin became disillusioned with Lenin, openly mocking his articles coming from Zurich, calling for a revolution in Switzerland. When the famous Georgy Solomon arrived in Petrograd in order to raise funds for the leader of the world proletariat, who was in exile in distress (Parvus specifically limited Lenin in funds so that he would be angrier at the right time), Krasin, after listening to Solomon, took out his wallet and handed him two five-ruble notes. Solomon refused indignantly, telling Krasin that they would manage without him. "As you wish," Krasin shrugged, putting the banknotes back into his wallet, noticing Solomon in a friendly way. "Don't get angry, Georgy, Lenin doesn't deserve help. He is obsessed with destruction and is unpredictable. No one knows what thought will be born tomorrow in his Tatar head. He would go to hell. Let's have lunch."

However, Lenin, after the coup, having destroyed all trade in the country, for some reason appointed Krasin as the People's Commissar of Trade. Confiscated money and goods flowed to Krasin's People's Commissariat both from large merchant firms with millions of turnovers, and from small shops and workshops that managed to sell only 300 rubles worth. Money and valuables were transferred to the People's Bank and the "gold fund" founded under it, and the goods - to warehouses filled to the roofs due to the stagnation in foreign trade caused by the war.

Krasin was one of the co-authors of the "closed warehouses" system, which consisted in the fact that even when, it would seem, the country has everything you need, nothing was sold, but only distributed. This system is still alive today, operating with the same efficiency. The only difference is that in those years, people driven to despair by hunger and need decided to storm the warehouses, during which they were mercilessly shot from machine guns, after which the execution of each individual was formalized as a sentence of the Revolutionary Tribunal.

True, the warehouses were not dimensionless. From time to time, spoiled products had to be taken under cover of night and under strict guard to a landfill, where they were poured with lime so that, God forbid, someone would not use them.

On the way, something, of course, was stolen and appeared on the black market. From rotten products, epidemics broke out, in which, naturally, speculators were blamed.

However, they hoped to unload the warehouses soon, for which Krasin was heading to Germany.

The most remarkable person of all sent to Berlin was the fourth employee of the "embassy" - Vyacheslav Menzhinsky. On the personal instructions of Lenin, he was to take the post of Consul General of the RSFSR in the German capital. Vyacheslav Menzhinsky is the most sinister figure in the Bolshevik elite. First Deputy "Iron Felix",

one of the most bloodthirsty vampires from the collegium of the Cheka, he also served as People's Commissar for Finance and was one of the chief commissioners of the "people's bank". An interesting combination of jobs, isn't it? With one hand we rob and kill, with the other we capitalize and hide. And important, apparently, were the reasons that forced Menzhinsky to abandon his laborious and profitable business in Russia and go to Berlin.[7] At the Silesian railway station in Berlin, the delegation, together with some petty clerks from the German Foreign Ministry, was met by the great Parvus himself.

The significance of this person in the fate of Russia is so great, and they know so little about him that it's even a shame, since it was Parvus who was Lenin's teacher and mentor, the first to ingeniously guess in Ilyich exactly the person whose insane energy of crushing would allow him, Parvus, to realize global fantastic enrichment plans. For, to be honest, Parvus did not like menial work, although he had to do it somehow in 1905. It is believed that the real name of Parvus is Gelfand, although recent data cast doubt on this. It is very difficult for international adventurers of this magnitude to get to the bottom of the real name. He was three years older than Lenin, born in 1867 in the city of Berezino, Minsk province.

He spent his childhood in Odessa, where he graduated from the gymnasium in 1885, and then went to Germany to continue his education. In 1891, Parvus graduated from the University of Basel with a degree in economics and finance, after which he worked for several years in various banks in Germany and Switzerland. Infatuated with Marx.

Apparently, he was the first to understand the possibility of using Marxist and pseudo-Marxist phraseology to cover up any kind of political and military crimes. He enthusiastically studied the history of Russia, the state of its economy and finances. He drew attention to the deep antagonism that was tearing apart all sections of Russian society and foresaw the complete helplessness and defenselessness of this society if it were deprived of a very thin educated layer, consisting of the nobility and intelligentsia; he made a huge impression on Lenin.

Parvus was the only person in the "Social-Democratic" milieu with whom Lenin did not dare to argue, although he attacked everyone else like a fighting cock if they dared to interpret Marxism in any other way than he did, never embarrassed in terms of expressions. "A lackey, lackey, hireling, bastard, prostitute, traitor" — this is the main set of Leninist literary and polemical devices in disputes with the right and the guilty.

However, Parvus, whom the leader hated, perhaps, more than all the others put together, he never dared to hurt either verbally or in print.

On the contrary, listening attentively, he often exclaimed: "Nonsense! Archreactionary! But if you look dialectically, then this is practical Marxism! Practical Marxism, according to Parvus, boiled down to the following: achieving world domination, called in Marxist jargon "world revolution", is possible only in one way: by taking control of the world financial system. He believed that for this it was not at all necessary to break the old, that is, the existing financial system, but it was enough only, having penetrated into it, to gradually take it under his own control and turn it to the implementation of his goals. This is possible only under the condition of capturing some more or less rich country and, having converted all its wealth, all movable and immovable property into money, to impose on its people pure Platonic socialism (that is, the worst kind of slavery), and to invest the funds thus obtained in world financial system. And if the amount is large enough, with its help to impose on the world and the corresponding ideology.

("Archireactive!"). Naturally, mass and merciless terror will be necessary, but the widest scope for its disguise is given by the skillful use of such expressions as

"proletarian dictatorship", "class struggle", "obsolete classes", "universal equality", "complete freedom" and well-thought-out tactics of actions according to a simple scheme: "achieving success, consolidating success, developing success". The strictest discipline is necessary in its ranks, not the slightest shadow of a split, the absolute secret of the life of the leading link and its gradual deification. ("Archireactionary! But if you look dialectically...").

These were not yet resolutions and directives, decrees and decrees, secret and top secret instructions with threats of the death penalty in case of disclosure. These were conversations in cozy cafes or at parties, where it was considered the highest heroism to play Varshavyanka on the piano or to declare general phrases like "Down with the autocracy!". But the "scenario" has already been spoken of.

Disagreements arose immediately. If Parvus believed that it was impossible to even think of a better country for the initial implementation of the plan than Russia, then Lenin was categorically against it. Lenin believed that nothing was impossible in Russia, while Parvus, on the contrary, was convinced that everything was possible in Russia, even the impossible. And when the thousand-year-old Russian oak swayed, cut down by the cruel and humiliating defeats of the Russo-Japanese War, Parvus immediately assessed the situation, the people, brought up for centuries by imperial slogans of brilliant victories and frivolous militancy, will not forgive the regime for such a shameful military defeat that completely swallowed the pride of the empire - its huge fleet, half of which was captured and flaunted under Japanese flags. There was no need to be a Marxist. It was enough to remember the words of Herzen: "Blessed are defeats in wars, not victories in them ... For the strongest chains for the people are forged from victorious swords."

Having received the first two million pounds sterling from the Japanese, Parvus wasted no time in becoming the spiritual leader and leader of the 1905 revolution. (From Japanese money, Lenin also got something: to organize the 3rd Congress of the RSDLP and the newspaper Vperyod). But Lenin, not believing in Russia, watched the actions of Parvus from abroad, scolding him aloud and admiring him in his soul.

Parvus' methodology was clear: a revolution in the country is a revolution in the capital. Outskirts detonate. He created the "Soviets", taking over the post of Chairman of the St. Petersburg Council. What is one of his financial manifesto worth!

And the slogans inciting anti-war and defeatist sentiments! And the accident of the "Eagle", which delayed the exit of the 2nd Pacific squadron! And the organization of the procession on January 9, 1905, when the Parvus militants from the trees of Alexander Park began to shoot at the soldiers from the cordon of the Winter Palace and led to the famous Bloody Sunday! Bank raids! Kronstadt, Sevastopol, Sveaborg! "Potemkin" and "Ochakov"! Everything was great, except for one thing. They did not immediately start mass terror and everyone lost in the end. Lenin, although he himself did not participate in anything, watched closely, noticing mistakes. And he was convinced once again: in Russia it is possible to organize a riot, riots, pogroms and strikes, but never to build what he has planned. Not that country. We need to start from Western Europe.

Arrested and sentenced to hard labor, Parvus escaped from the Siberian stage and showed up ... in Turkey, becoming an economic and financial adviser to the government of the Young Turks. Having earned more than one million in this field, having established relations with the world club of international banks and cartels, Parvus never forgot his main plan - the crushing of Russia. He did not forget, but he did not get distracted from the turbulent economic activity either. His financial genius, as Trotsky aptly put it, went from an ax cutting down a Russian oak to a gardener's shovel feeding a Turkish cypress, saving the crumbling Ottoman Empire from economic collapse. At the same time, Parvus did not forget himself. He founded banks and trading enterprises, tossed giant

sums, when Lenin and a handful of supporters loyal to him literally vegetated in exile. Lenin lived either on "expropriated" money (until Kamo and Koba were imprisoned), then on mother's transfers (while she was alive), then on donations from friends (until everyone was tired), then on the dependents of good Swiss socialists, gradually falling into full prostration.

But Parvus never forgot him, for he understood that no one could carry out his plan better than Lenin.

The Sarajevo shot sounded like a calling alarm for Parvus. He instantly saw and calculated how the entry of Turkey into the war on the side of Germany would end for Russia. With the fervor of a passionate orator, he convinced the resolute but narrow-minded Enver Pasha and his "Young Turks" that only by fighting on the side of Germany, Turkey could again be reborn as a great empire, washing away the shame of endless defeats and capitulations, gross humiliations and insults of the last twenty years her history. Over coffee and cigars, he talks with the German ambassador to Turkey, von Wangenheim, and a radiogram flies from distant Constantinople, forcing Admiral Souchon, who was planning a suicidal breakthrough from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, to deploy Goeben and hurry to the Dardanelles at full speed. He presses his secret buttons - and supplies of grain, rolled metal, machine tools and ammunition go to Turkey, part of the cargo is unloaded along the road in Bulgaria. The genius of Parvus has already done the impossible: two age-old enemies, Bulgaria and Turkey, are opposing Russia, destroying all the ideas of pan-Slavism and pan-Islamism. It is not without reason that Parvus' friend, Enver Pasha, the Minister of War and the head of the military cabinet of Turkey, will eventually shave off his mustache "a la Kaiser", join the Comintern and lay down his violent head on the Soviet-Afghan border in 1922 during one of the next countless and senseless operations of the OGPU in the name of world revolution.

But that was only the beginning. Having secured the blockade of Russia in the south, Parvus again unexpectedly appears among the "Social Democracy", blinding the impoverished Russian emigration with the brilliance of diamond cufflinks and gold rings.

His famous pamphlet For Democracy! Against tsarism! already managed to make a fuss, since the long silent Parvus dared to reappear in the field of party journalism with a completely new interpretation of the immediate tasks of the "socialist" movement, which made the vast majority of his former party comrades numb with horror. The essence of the new "theory" was as follows: there is no need to raise the question of the perpetrators of the war and seek out "who attacked first." It doesn't matter. Someone had to attack, because world imperialism has been preparing a world massacre for decades. You should not waste time looking for reasons that no one needs, you need to learn to think

socialistically: how can we, the world proletariat, use the war and determine which side to fight on? Everyone knows that the most powerful social democracy in the world is the social democracy of Germany. If socialism is defeated in Germany, it will be defeated everywhere. The road to the victory of world socialism is all-round support for Germany's war efforts. And the fact that Russian tsarism is fighting on the side of the Entente shows us more clearly than anyone else who the true enemy of socialism is. And so, the workers of the whole world must fight against Russian tsarism.

The task of the world proletariat is the annihilating defeat of Russia and the revolution in it! If Russia is not decentralized and democratized, the whole world is in danger. And since Germany bears the brunt of the struggle against Moscow imperialism, it is easy to draw the only correct conclusion: THE VICTORY OF GERMANY IS THE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM!

As Lenin said, "Archireactionary, but if you look dialectically ...".

Yes, no matter how Lenin felt about Parvus, he was forced to admit that it was beautiful,

harmonious and dialectical development of his own theory of "defeatism".

What Lenin always lacked was the breadth of Parvusian scope, since Lenin was not an economist. And Parvus, quickly moving from words to deeds, arrived in Berlin and laid out to the Germans a plan for the destruction of Russia "by coming to power of extreme left-wing extremists." The plan was military clear. The first step is to overthrow the king. The anti-tsarist campaign is already underway, but with the help of money, literally from tomorrow, not only the socialist press of the whole world, but also the entire liberal press can be involved in it, which will involve the diverse liberal opposition in Russia into the maelstrom of events.

The scheme is simple. The tsar is the culprit of the war, millions of victims, military failures.

The Empress is German, which means she is a spy. A little primitive, of course, but it will work in Russia. The heir is terminally ill, which means that the dynasty is doomed.

The State Duma, which consisted almost without exception of bourgeois liberals, will gladly swallow the hook with such a bait. And as soon as the tsar is overthrown, centralized Russia will collapse. Will collapse forever. Because this empire cannot exist in a democracy, just as fish cannot exist on land. Class, interethnic, communal contradictions are too sharp. And most importantly, the economy is overstretched, and it can generally be finished off by a strike war. The second step will be much easier. Such a simple slogan as: "Land to the peasants!" - will lead to the fact that the peasants will begin to take the land from the landowners by force, and the soldiers, having shot the officers, will run in droves from the trenches to take part in the division of the land. The army will be paralyzed, industry will be destroyed, agriculture will be thrown into chaos. And at this moment, left-wing extremists seize power, conclude peace with Germany and consolidate the collapse of the empire by legislative acts. At the same time, they naturally count on the help of German weapons in order to avoid various surprises that are now foreseen.

impossible.

Of course, the Germans were shown only that part of the plan that concerned them.

A lot of things the Germans were not supposed to know, but what Parvus said was breathtaking. Nurtured by Clausewitz and Frederick the Great, the strategy of Moltke Sr. and Moltke Jr.; the magnificent plan of A. Schlieffen, verified to the minute, which proposed to end the European war in 2 months (30 days for France, 30 for Russia); the best dreadnoughts and battlecruisers in the world, which have grown like mushrooms on the slogan: "God, punish England!"; the unsurpassed clarity of headquarters and the steely discipline of the army - all this already turned out to be a fiction and did not work. The meat grinder on the western and eastern fronts, the increasingly tight noose of the British naval blockade, the rapid depletion of reserves and resources, the expectation from day to day of the United States entering the war clearly showed the Germans their very terrible future. It was not given to narrow Prussian foreheads to comprehend the full scope of the plan, but they saw in it what occupied them most of all - the opportunity to knock out their most powerful and formidable enemy from the war and from the Entente. And this plan was proposed not by some visiting swindler, but by the well-known man Parvus - the Father of the First Russian Revolution, who knew how to organize strikes, and street processions, and bloody riots. The Germans still well remembered how, for a meager pay, he organized the famous Obukhov strike, when he managed to permanently disable the entire technological line for the production of new 14-inch guns for arming Russian battlecruisers. That is why they readily seized on Parvus's plan, asking how much it would all cost? 50 million - answered Parvus, who had already calculated everything for a long time, hoping to put at least half in his own pocket. Bargaining was inappropriate. What is 50 million gold marks? One unfinished battleship. Funny! (The Empress Maria alone, blown up in Sevastopol, more than paid off all expenses up to and including 1919!).

The Germans were worried about something else - was not Parvus himself going to climb the All-Russian throne when, as envisaged by the plan, it becomes vacant? The questions were asked in an extremely polite manner, but cold German anti-Semitism flowed from the eyes of the questioners. It is unlikely that public opinion in Russia, no matter how revolutionized it may be, will accept that the highest post in the country is occupied by a person, to put it mildly, of "non-Orthodox faith". Oh, Parvus was above that! Firstly, he had his own opinion about Russian society, secondly, that part of the plan, in which the Germans were not privy, provided for the rapid and decisive liquidation of any public opinion in the country, and thirdly, and this was the most Most importantly, Parvus was not at all going to return to Russia, and even more so - to become the Russian Tsar, even if all the people began to cry and moan to call him to the throne, like Boris Godunov.

Over the years, he became too rich and respectable (a house in Berlin, a mansion in Bern, a mansion in Stockholm, a villa in the Swiss Alps, four of his own banks and a shareholding in six others, an import-export office in Copenhagen, controlling stakes in railways and shipping companies) to take on such a menial and thankless job as sitting on a throne. To do this, he had another candidate, with whom he had kept his eyes on all these years. Their former collaboration is long gone, they had not seen each other for years, but not for a second did Parvus forget this unique "socialist" in his own uniqueness, seized by the mania of power and world domination, completely unbiased, completely free from prejudices, from "cleanliness", ready at the most monstrous means in order to achieve the goal and capable of justifying any, the most base goal, with streams of demagoguery, incantations, lies and half-lies, with which Marxist and pseudo-Marxist rhetoric is so rich. At that time, his enormous, truly volcanic energy was wasted on fragmentation, dissociation, petty newspaper squabbles, on impotent rage because of the awareness of his complete insignificance for Europe and a misunderstanding of the place where the main blow should be delivered. But his outstanding qualities of a flexible realist, unprincipled and cruel, along with an amazing capacity for work and maniacal hypnotic power of attracting the most bloodthirsty bastards to himself, an insane thirst for power and purely Asian dictatorial manners - all this, according to Parvus, made Lenin simply indispensable for action precisely in Russia and only in Russia. For a world scale, he was too small, but if he really liked to be considered the "leader of the world proletariat", then someone who, but Parvus, would not mind. The main thing is to get the job done.[8] Who, except Lenin, could better appreciate the brilliant idea! They were sitting in the filthy kitchen of Lenin's poor apartment in Zurich, their gigantic foreheads almost touching each other, two great and terrible geniuses sent to earth by no one knows what forces to destroy Russia forever and almost destroy all human civilization. Appearing three years apart (1867 and 1870), they left the earth at the same time in 1924, ominous and misunderstood ...

However, if Lenin, better than anyone else, could appreciate the plan of Parvus, then he was not at all delighted with the proposal to take personal part in it.

What is Russia? Russia is shit! We must not start with Russia! So after all, no one sets the task of building socialism in Russia according to Marx. Russia will simply provide the means to organize the whole thing on a global scale. Nonsense! Russia is poor and all in debt! Are you going to be forced to pay royal debts?

And as for poverty... If you turn out all your pockets, then not so little will work out. And the Germans? What do you Germans? Do you think I need their money? I would have got this money without the Germans. Even more would get and faster. I tied the Germans to the plan with this money, because we cannot do without the Germans. We will destroy the army, but what will we be left with? We need an army, but not a Russian army. Otherwise, the elements will sweep us away. Do you understand? Under the cover of the Germans, we will do our job, and under their cover, we will leave. And then? And then with the money we take from Russia, we'll just buy the whole of Europe. Here is the world revolution! If no jokes, then ev

it will be possible to make two simple slogans: peace and land ...

Lenin, as Parvus correctly understood, really did not have enough strategic breadth. He was squeezed in the grip of his own prejudices, axioms and crazy ideas, but we must give him his due, he was an excellent tactician and saw even more in Parvus' plan than Parvus himself. The meeting at the Silesian railway station was joyful, but without much emotion. Politely raised hats, firm handshakes, short, guttural German phrases. Only eyes shone: the plan was a success and is being carried out. So far - pah, pah, pah - everything is going smoothly. On the wide central street of Berlin, Unter den Linden, lined with lindens on both sides, the building of the former Russian embassy, built with imperial solidity at the end of the 19th century, which had been empty since 1914, came to life again. This happened on April 20, 1918 (Hitler's birthday, which the future Fuhrer celebrated in the trenches of the Western Front).

In the vast empty building, behind the blank curtains of the former ambassador's Art Nouveau office, work began. Cigars smoked in marble ashtrays, coffee froze in Saxon porcelain cups, Bohemian crystal sparkled with red-green sparks of expensive liqueurs. For all his exactingness and rigidity in business, Parvus could not help but admire the enormous and laborious work done by the People's Commissariat of Finance and the People's Bank in just six months that had passed since the October coup.

Strings of statements and figures, inventories and inventories, invoices, waybills, mortgages, loan certificates. Everything is summarized in the final tables and systematized. In 1897 (the year the minting of gold coins began), the State Treasury issued: gold coins of 15 ruble denomination - 11 million 900 thousand pieces, for a total amount of 178 million 500 thousand rubles. On April 10, 1918, 9 million 500 thousand coins were captured and credited for a total of 142 million 500 thousand rubles.

16 million 829 thousand pieces of gold coins worth 7 rubles 50 kopecks were minted for a total of 126 million 217 thousand 500 rubles. On April 10, 1918, 14 million 850 thousand coins were seized for a total of 111 million 375 thousand rubles.

5 million 372 thousand pieces of gold coins with a denomination of 5 rubles were minted for a total of 26 million 860 thousand rubles. On the south of April 1918, 2 million 100 thousand coins were seized for a total of 10 million 500 thousand rubles.

1898... 1899... Years flash by, and with them millions of gold coins, a golden stream, a golden river turning into the sea. Gold French francs of five, ten, twenty, fifty and hundred francs, gold Swiss francs, gold guineas and half-sovereigns with the image of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V. Banknotes of pounds, francs, marks, North American dollars. Securities, loan obligations, bonds. Data on availability, movements, gold assets of foreign states stored in Russian banks, Russian gold securing foreign loans, gold rings torn from the hands of the executed, gold gray torn from the ears of schoolgirls, gold bracelets found behind the icons of peasant huts. Silver coins, silver bullion, precious metal products, works of art made of silver and bronze (in thousands of poods). Collections of museums, private collections, state depositories have not yet been capitalized. There was no time. But in the near future it will be done ...

Only 2.5 billion gold rubles at the rate of 1913. Of these: to personal accounts, to the "common cause", to the Germans on the points: a) for funding; b) for the provision of military assistance; c) for the maintenance of the army; d) arrested German deposits; e) confiscated goods; f) losses of private persons and property as a result of broken contracts, anti-German pogroms and other causes.

Total: to German banks, Swiss banks, Scandinavian banks and other banks ...; fare; the percentage of losses due to the self-interest of the performers. Total... To personal personal accounts... Ciphers... Keys... In the shares of German industry and the industry of neutral countries. Total...

Moving his thick lips, Parvus runs through the columns of numbers with his watery eyes, turning dark before his eyes. Few!

There wasn't enough time. This, of course, is not all. Here are data on stocks of furs, grain, timber, ores, non-ferrous metals. After satisfying all the German claims ... we would like to start with them and receive. Yes, we understand that the Germans can now take everything themselves - by force. But here is Lenin's handwritten letter, which he asked to bring to the attention of his German colleagues: "... you can't take anything from us with a war, we'll burn everything!" Lenin is Lenin. An extremist in every manifestation. One could even be surprised if at the end of the message there was not its essence: "We can give raw materials to the Germans."

No need to quarrel. We'll handle everything like civilized people. Not enough, just because it's not enough. It must be five times more. It's minimum. All because the expropriation is based on emotions and unsystematic. Too much sticks to the hands of performers. It is necessary to act more strictly, to ensure control.

Real control. The creation of the Cheka is an excellent idea, but there are too many thieves there. It is clear that you had little time, but no one can say how much time is left. Start acting even cooler and tougher.

Teaching, Parvus continued to study the documents, operating with nine-digit numbers with extraordinary ease. Suddenly, an interjection escaped from the lips of the great financier - a mixture of bewilderment, an unpleasant expectation that came true and indignation. Lack!

The numbers don't add up. Can't be! Can't be? Please take a look.

Nice business! Seventy-five... no, sorry... seventy-eight million in gold. The investigation began immediately. The ciphers flew.

Dzerzhinsky - in Moscow (with trips to Switzerland), Menzhinsky - in Berlin.

The results were sensational. They steal in Petrograd, sending "cargo" somewhere to the left through private banks in Scandinavia. The perpetrators were quickly found: Uritsky, Volodarsky, and the chairman of the Kronstadt Cheka, Andronnikov.[9]

Parvus had no choice but to take a deep breath. Uritsky and Volodarsky are his favorite students, who seem to be more than others imbued with the great idea of what is happening, specially assigned to Lenin (among many others) so that he does not present any unpredictable surprises. They promised to sort it out. And indeed, sorted out quickly enough. Literally a month later, Volodarsky was liquidated.

The negotiations in Berlin went smoothly. It was not in vain that Ganetsky studied finance at the Universities of Berlin, Heidelberg and Zurich. He knew how, where and under what conditions to place huge amounts of hard currency. In his admiring memoirs of Lenin (of course, on the account of Ganetsky himself, only in one of the Swiss banks, the GPU found 60 million francs in 1932), Ganetsky recalls these days with pleasure. "Although the prospect of meeting at the green table with the German banking aces Mendelssohn, Glazenap and others did not particularly please me, our delegation did not conduct negotiations so badly. Their result was the signing of additional agreements to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which precisely determined the amount of payment for Germany's financial claims, but, at the same time, ensured

complete independence of Soviet Russia in the field of domestic economic policy. Sensitive German bankers and their Swiss counterparts tried to mutter something about the methods of making money. "But we told them directly - do not meddle in our affairs, good gentlemen!" (It is a pleasure to quote the memoirs of the "old Bolsheviks").

While Ganetsky worked with bankers, Krasin worked with industrialists.

The famous Siemens, who had lost so much property in Russia and longed for compensation, invited to a meeting with Krasin, in his own words, "a whole regiment" of magnates of German industry. The tycoons—serious men and highly protective of their international reputations (as opposed to the less scrupulous bankers)—were wary. They were not too lazy to get acquainted with the dossier of the newly-minted People's Commissar of Trade, and his too obvious criminal past did not inspire them at all.

But there was no choice. Hemmed in by land fronts and the British blockade from the sea, Germany agonized, despite the fact that her troops occupied a good half of France in the west and marched through Tiflis in the east. Maritime trade ceased as early as 1914, and the pride of Germany and the object of special adoration of the Kaiser - the high seas fleet - made only one timid attempt during the entire war to throw off the English noose from the country. It was necessary to revive the industry. And Krasin offers raw materials, and in quantities that the Germans did not even dare to dream of.

They compare the amount of raw materials offered with intelligence reports on the availability of strategic raw materials in Russia at the beginning of 1917. Oh my God! They are offered to sweep under the whisk everything that Russian industry accumulated with difficulty during the years of the great war. Can this be taken seriously? Who are the people who came to power there? Is there any scam here? Can anyone confirm these suggestions? Please!

"For all questions relating to the purchase and sale of goods in Germany, contact the Consulate General directly to Mr. Menzhinsky V.R.", a man, as Lenin said, of an impeccable reputation ... And at the same time, Ioffe and Menzhinsky, tirelessly, were engaged in receiving numerous cargoes going by land and sea to the embassy and consulate general. Some boxes and containers were shipped to Switzerland on the move.

Parvus could be satisfied if he knew everything, But he knew far from everything.

Lenin, who jumped out from under his care, was not at all going to share all his plans with his former mentor. Some boxes, hung with diplomatic seals, did not contain gold in coins, bullions, jewelry and works of art, not platinum and precious stones exported by the Bolsheviks abroad, but brochures and leaflets sloppily printed in German, calling on the workers and peasants of Germany to bring their the country into a state of the same bloody chaos into which Russia had already been brought. And some already had rifles. A terrible bacillus was growing, trying to spread the epidemic to the whole world. "If the opportunity presents itself to deal with Germany in the same way as with Russia, then we will in no way refuse it," the cynic Radek used to say.

But what was Menzhinsky doing, and what forced his boss, Dzerzhinsky, to drop his business at the Lubyanka and suddenly appear in Switzerland? The point is not, or rather, not only that Uritsky and Volodarsky were stealing, but, as it turned out later, Zinoviev too. The point was that Lenin began to be weighed down by Parvus. Not that he claimed to be the leader of the world proletariat or dared to theoretically polemicize with Ilyich in the press (Parvus, of course, had long forgotten to think about such insanity as "party

journalism”), but Lenin never forgot what he owed to Parvus, as well as what obligations he had taken while crossing the warring Germany in a sealed wagon, and not without reason considered Parvus a very dangerous witness. In addition, the author of the PLAN was Parvus, and since the PLAN was a success, Lenin himself wanted to become its author.

But this reason was not the most important. The main thing was that Parvus, with his fat carcass, blocked all "intimate" contacts with an extensive system of Western banks, while playing some kind of his own game, and no one knows how much he unfastened into his own pocket. In the cellars of the Lubyanka, a sufficient number of old and experienced financiers with international experience accumulated, who, under torture (and more often even without torture), gave away many global financial secrets and connections that made it possible to conduct business around Germany on a much larger scale than envisaged by Parvus. But this was the future, and in the present, Parvus was still needed. Therefore, although the question of its liquidation was raised, it was recognized as untimely and postponed. To be completely objective, it must be admitted that at that meeting in the Kremlin on July 19, 1918, when the first information about the execution of Nicholas II and his family spread around the world, if the name Parvus was often pronounced, it was not at all in connection with his liquidation, but rather, with his famous remark: "Not enough!", And completely fair remarks about unsystematic and uncontrolled expropriation (or nationalization), since Lenin himself, throwing out his famous slogan: "Rob the loot," recognized the use of non-Russians in such appeals as inappropriate words. They listened... Decided... And then the RED TERROR broke out.

Having ordered the liquidation of Uritsky (there was a reason!) and staged an attempt on his own life [10], Lenin for the first time in the history of mankind authorized the mass extermination of entire groups of the population, defining the social status of those doomed by the vague label "bourgeois". [11] Lists of potential victims began to be drawn up immediately after the coup, when, on the personal order of Lenin, registration was carried out at the place of residence of persons belonging to the "rich classes", covering almost the entire population of the country without exception. Lenin's catchphrase: "Let 90% of the Russian people perish, if only 10% live to see the world revolution" - a phrase that delighted his accomplices, who, however, considered it hyperbole, began to be carried out on an unprecedented scale. By this time, the entire territory controlled by the Bolsheviks was already covered with such a dense network of various county, provincial and volost Chekas that even the Pravda newspaper, paying tribute to the work done, noted with admiration the actual replacement of the "power of the soviets" by "the power of the Chekas". It is in this ominous web; entangled the country, instructions flew from Moscow explaining the meaning of the declared terror: "We are not waging war against individuals. WE DESTROY THE BOURGEOISIE AS A CLASS. Do not look at the investigation for material and evidence that the accused acted in deed or word against the Soviet regime. The first question that you should ask him is what is his origin, upbringing, education or profession. These questions should determine the fate of the accused. This is the meaning and essence of the "red terror".

But the meaning was much deeper than it was possible to fit into the official text of the official instructions. "For the execution, we do not need any evidence, or interrogations, or suspicions. We find it necessary and shoot, that's all," Dzerzhinsky taught his subordinates, clearly making it clear that the event should be considered much broader than the simple destruction of the "rich classes". It was about the people in general. In parallel with the announcement of the "Red Terror", the famous Hostage Order was issued, stating: "...significant numbers of hostages must be taken from the bourgeoisie and officers. At the slightest attempt at resistance or the slightest movement among the White Guards, mass execution must be unconditionally used. Terror immediately took the form of unbridled and bloody slaughter. In the country for many years, that terrible and multifaceted lawlessness was laid, the fruits of which we are reaping today.

But if you look even deeper, the "Red Terror" was just another financial event of the Bolsheviks, who were languishing from the fact that the population had some money left that had not yet been credited by the people's bank and the People's Commissariat of Finance.

At night, Bolsheviks armed from head to toe burst into all the apartments inhabited by persons who had the misfortune before the revolution to be listed as nobles, merchants, honorary citizens, lawyers, officers, and at this time - "bourgeois", armed from head to toe, carried out a thorough search, taking away money and valuables, pulled out residents in one feasible dress, without disassembling either sex, age, or even health status, sometimes even dying typhoid patients were put under escort in prepared carts and taken out of the city. Some, mostly young and healthy men, were shot on the spot, the rest were shoved into prisons and concentration camps, young women were raped and often then killed.

The property of the "bourgeois" was allegedly confiscated "for distribution to the workers." But what the workers got when the mass executions of the strikers were already raging throughout the country, and what they got later, there is no need to say. Gold and jewelry were handed over (on average, no more than 15% stuck to the hands of performers), books, manuscripts, talented projects, priceless archives were simply thrown away, and the rest was partially appropriated, partially resold to speculators, who, after the sale, were caught and also shot, often together with buyers. All this, with variations of one kind or another, happened throughout the country.

But that was the bottom line. On a higher level, things proceeded on a more "solid" basis. A person who was supposed to have good money, sometimes hidden in a foreign bank, was told quite openly that since he was subject to liquidation due to his origin, upbringing or profession and he had nowhere to go, the humane government, stepping on the throat of its own song, nevertheless offers his life and freedom with travel abroad in exchange for an insignificant amount of 400 thousand rubles in gold or their equivalent in any other currency. Those who immediately agreed and indicated the place where money and valuables were stored were shot for harboring them, those who resisted were subjected to medieval torture, tortured before his eyes and family members, and then - regardless of the result - they were shot with the whole family. Those who surrendered gradually were kept in prison until 1934, slowly squeezing millions out of them.

But, let's be objective, some were released, because the amounts were fantastic, and corruption had already seized the "knights of the revolution" to such an extent that they were often unable to overcome the temptation. Particularly distinguished in this respect were the Petrograd Cheka and its revolutionary Kronstadt branch, headed by Prince Andronnikov, already familiar to us. After the liquidation of Uritsky, Gleb Boki operated in the "cradle of the revolution". A favorite of Dzerzhinsky, he, after a masterfully organized assassination attempt on his former boss Uritsky, began to quickly move up the career ladder. His ability to extort money from hostages aroused envy and admiration in Moscow.

It was he who had the brilliant idea to feed the animals in the capital's zoo with the meat of the executed. Exotic animals were expensive, and they still hoped to sell them to someone in the end.

But the main thing, of course, was not that. The main thing was that they began to release hostages from Petrograd for money. Moscow learned about this from a secret report by the famous Yakovleva, one of Boki's deputies.

It turned out that covert operations were being carried out in the former capital of the empire.

Hostages are secretly arrested, kept somewhere in safe houses, negotiated for astronomical ransoms, and then secretly smuggled across

Finnish border. The money received does not go anywhere and is not credited. Thus, a number of persons who could not be released outside the country managed to escape. At present, Yakovleva reported, secret negotiations were being held with the former Grand Dukes Nikolai Mikhailovich, Grigory Mikhailovich, Dmitry Konstantinovich and Pavel Alexandrovich, who were kept in the Peter and Paul Fortress, who were promised freedom and travel abroad for a huge ransom. A significant amount has already been received, at the expense of which the family of the former Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich with his wife Xenia Alexandrovna (sister of the former Tsar) and six children were sent abroad. The brothers determined that, as having many children, he should be the first to be saved.[12] It followed from the denunciation that a counter-revolutionary conspiracy was being implemented in Petrograd for the purpose of personal gain.

A terrible scandal erupted. All the great princes were quickly shot out of harm's way. The investigation, quickly carried out on the direct instructions of Lenin, established the involvement in the "secret operation" of the top of the Cheka, headed by Dzerzhinsky. Dzerzhinsky, Boki and a number of other persons were temporarily suspended from their positions. Lenin yelled at Dzerzhinsky and threatened to disperse the Cheka.

Dzerzhinsky smiled wryly. He understood jokes. Everything was blamed on the "switchmen". In Petrograd, the head of one of the district departments of the Cheka, a certain Kozyrev, was arrested with noise and din. He was arrested at the moment when he was exchanging jewelry for pounds sterling from some foreigners in a safe house. Tried by a revolutionary court in public. The indictment listed Kozyrev's numerous crimes. It turns out that "Comrade Kozyrev has sunk so low that he allowed himself to steal gold plates, spoons and forks from the dining room of the Cheka." How "golden plates, spoons and forks" got into the dining room of the Cheka, no one, of course, specified in the indictment, and no one dared to ask this question.

The flow of valuables to the German capital continued. The wealth pumped out of the country, along with the blood of wealth, went west, into an extensive web of international banks. Blood, only blood, remained in Russia. And the main national wealth of the country - its enterprising, enterprising, talented and hardworking people were dumped in tens of thousands into mass graves. Let someone try to argue that the criminal gang that took over the country had any other intentions than to rob and destroy this country. The pedantic Germans accurately accounted for all the exports from the "Sovdepiya" until their collapse in November 1918: 2 million poods of sugar, 9132 wagons of bread, 841 wagons of timber, 2 million poods of flax fiber, 1218 wagons of meat, 294 wagons of furs, etc.

In gratitude, the Germans opened the way for the international army to the Don.

Provided on the flanks by the Germans, the army of internationalists invaded the region of the Don Cossacks, having a clear instruction signed by Lenin and Sverdlov: "Solve the problem of the Cossacks ... by exterminating them completely ... Carry out mass terror against the rich (again! - I. B.) Cossacks, exterminating them without exception ... Shoot everyone who has weapons found (the Cossacks had weapons in every house. - I. B.) ... All money and valuables should be confiscated, credited and handed over ... ". But poor Hitler was still lying in the hospital then, recovering from the gas attack of the British ...

In November 1918, Germany collapsed and capitulated. Even before that, the Soviet ambassador Ioffe was caught distributing leaflets and was expelled.

True, he soon returned, but he was no longer handing out leaflets, but rifles right in the courtyard of the Soviet embassy. The terms of surrender, strictly dictated by the Western Allies, required a quick withdrawal of German troops from all occupied territories in

Germany. In the dead of night on November 3, 1918, the German consul in Petrograd paid a farewell visit to Zinoviev. The two of them have worked hard over the past year. Only the intervention of Lenin, who did not want an "international" scandal, since Zinoviev was the chairman of the Comintern, helped him get out of the Petrograd scams with Andronnikov, Uritsky and Volodarsky, in which Zinoviev was stuck up to his ears.

The farewell was somewhat nervous. A global, superbly coordinated operation was coming to an end, bringing fantastic profits to both sides. There was still a line of communication across the Baltic, held by the "iron grenadiers" of von der Goltz, but no one had any illusions. Even von der Goltz could not resist under such conditions.

The future of Germany and its fate were seen in a dim, but very gloomy light. The fate of the Bolsheviks looked even more uncertain. What could they do, deprived of German support? The Germans did a gigantic job, frustrating all attempts at organized action against the Bolsheviks by any forces of the stunned Russian society, effectively destroying, in particular, the emerging powerful alliance of the Don and Kuban Cossacks with the Volunteer Army.

The Germans, however, intended to tolerate this gang in the Kremlin only until the end of the war, which they still hoped to end, if not with victory, then with a completely acceptable peace. On the other hand, the Kremlin already had guarantees from Liebknecht and Luxembourg that Germany would be thrown into the same abyss as Russia not today or tomorrow. Therefore, the plan to escape to Germany (and there, they say, we'll see!) Remained almost unchanged. Worked out as far back as 1917, it assumed an almost mystically quick disappearance and has almost been activated twice already. The first time, after the assassination of the German ambassador Mirbach, was expected to be captured by the Germans in Moscow, since it was quite rightly believed that the patience of the Germans had come to an end. The second was when it became known about the landing of the British in Arkhangelsk, since there were no forces to counter them. But the British, not knowing what kind of panic they caused in the Kremlin, were not going to attack anywhere. Their task was to take control of the mountains of weapons accumulated during the war years in the port of Arkhangelsk, because of the fear that the Bolsheviks would hand over these weapons to the Germans. Now, for the third time, a "precautionary period" was declared, since the situation after the German withdrawal was unpredictable.

The German consul, as befits a diplomat, before leaving, expressed regret to Zinoviev that such fruitful cooperation as had taken place between the governments of Germany and the RSFSR over the past year had come to an end.

The impudent Zinoviev, not considering it necessary to keep within the framework of diplomatic etiquette, which he did not know, answered the consul in the language of the Kherson shopkeepers, who had once given the head of the Comintern an elementary revolutionary education: "What is there to regret! You have grabbed so much in the Brest peace that you could be satisfied!"

The old school of Kaiser diplomacy most of all valued iron restraint in its representatives. The consul restrained himself, but still could not help but go beyond the protocol, answering Zinoviev: "It is still unknown who benefited more from this Brest Peace, you or us." On that they parted.

The departure of the Germans encouraged the national forces of anti-Bolshevik resistance. Weak and disunited, practically unarmed, held back by German bayonets and a misunderstanding of the allies, they nevertheless made a desperate attempt to throw off this terrible yoke that had come from nowhere. Boldly maneuvering with their small troops, a handful of senior officers of the former imperial army began a swift offensive against the captured central and eastern regions of Russia.

Unfortunately, the bacillus of Bolshevism has already decomposed both the rear of the White Army and, to a greater extent, the army itself. This bacillus, so precisely expressed in Lenin's words: "I don't give a damn about Russia, because I am a Bolshevik," combined with incantations about universal equality, embraced those sections of Russian society that had already been declared "hostile classes" by Lenin's decrees and mercilessly were destroyed.

General Denikin bitterly recalls: "Speculation has reached extraordinary proportions, capturing people of the most diverse circles, parties and professions in its vicious circle ...".

Undoubtedly, the reasons for inaction were rooted not in people, but in the general phenomena of people's life and economy - high cost and speculation inextricably linked with it. They were caused by a general disorder of monetary circulation and commodity exchange, a strong decline in labor and many other material and moral factors introduced by war and revolution ... Embezzlement, theft and bribery became commonplace, entire corporations suffered from this ailment. The worthlessness of the content and the delay in obtaining it was one of the reasons for these phenomena. So, railway transport has become literally a quitrent item for personnel.

It often became impossible to travel and send the goods in a normal way. Very broad sections of the population took part in the abuse of travel "letters". In it, for example, at one time the composition of the editorial board of Schrader's so democratic Native Land was exposed, and one large charitable organization that sold the "letters" provided for its needs to merchants under an agreement that stipulated its participation in 25 percent of net profit.

The Don government, despairing of getting bread from the Kuban (there was no bread on the Don for less than half a year of the Bolshevik occupation. On the Don, which fed half the world! - I.B.), entrusted the purchase of it to Moldavsky, a big businessman. Bread, indeed, began to flow in masses, although it cost the Don treasury extremely dearly. At the same time, the entire Kuban and all the railroads of the region were covered by counterparties of Moldavsky, who, according to the tax and according to the rank, quite openly paid tribute to the entire administration from the stanitsa clerk and oiler to ... I don't know the limits. In the Kuban Rada, the question was even raised that Moldavsky had corrupted the entire administration. It seems to me, however, that the Rada's lamentations were not entirely substantiated: the covetous and the covetous only complemented each other against the general backdrop of timelessness. The tradition of lawlessness permeated the life of the people, causing the appearance of many adventurers, impostors - large and small ... In the cities there was debauchery, revelry, drunkenness and revelry, into which the officers who came from the front rushed headlong. "Life is worthless. At least a day, but mine! ..". There was a feast during the pl

But even in such conditions, the most talented Russian commander of the beginning of the century was rapidly leading his troops to Moscow. The army of General Denikin, even at the peak of its power, never exceeded 150 thousand people, but within a few months it cleared a huge territory of the Bolsheviks, freeing Kharkov, Poltava, Kiev (which the Germans graciously gave to Lenin when they retreated), capturing Voronezh and Orel. Stopping to regroup his forces, Denikin threw into the raid on Moscow the cavalry corps of the Cossack General Mamontov, numbering 7,000 sabers. In the order, Mamontov was clearly tasked: "You must, replenishing your forces at the expense of anti-Bolshevik strata of the population, develop an offensive against Moscow, devastating the rear of the enemy and controlling the main lines of communication in the direction of Moscow in order to ensure a general attack of the army in the indicated direction."

Easily breaking through the front of the red internationalists, Mamontov's cavalry rushed to the ancient capital of Russia. But her offensive impulse immediately dried up. In every town, in every settlement, the cellars of local Chechens and Revolutionary Committees opened before the Cossacks the fabulous caves of Ali Baba. Gold, precious stones, jewelry, coins, bars, works of art. The Cossacks were seized by a gold rush.

All military tasks were immediately forgotten. Instead of marching on Moscow, Mamontov, meeting almost no organized resistance, cleaned the basements of the Cheka and the RVC.

According to eyewitnesses, the mammoth convoy stretched for 60 versts, when the Cossacks, burdened with prey, turned back, but not to join Denikin's army, but home - to the Don. It seemed that the glorious times of the quiet Don, the times of the 16th and 17th centuries, when the Don freemen made dashing raids and returned to their native kurens with rich booty, had returned. Exposing the flank of the army, Mamontov's corps entered the native region of the Great Don Army, the Cossacks fled to their native villages and farms. In Novocherkassk, the bells of the cathedral were joyfully humming, meeting Mamontov's corps after the raids. 2000 Cossacks brought with him a dashing general, five thousand fled along the road. The joy was indescribable. General Mamontov donated 90 poods of gold to the domes and crosses of the Novocherkassk cathedrals and churches from his personal share of the booty! (Oh, this gold will respond to the villagers! Until 1941, the extraordinary investigative commission of the GPU and the NKVD will squeeze out this gold, along with the intestines, from the former mammoths. All of them will be taken into account.

Many will get even abroad. Mamontov was very lucky that he soon died without realizing that he had ruined the White Cause by raising his hand to the Gold of the Party!).

In Kazan, for about 8 months, the Red Terror raged, replenishing the party treasury. But they had to flee from Kazan so quickly that, of course, they did not manage to take anything out. There was barely enough time to shoot the arrested hostages. Gold was stockpiled in the vast cellars of the local bank, as the cellars of the Cheka were filled with corpses. Almost four hours after the Bolsheviks had already left, and the Whites had not yet entered, a dashing crowd smashed the bank. Breaking doors and bones to each other, squealing, screaming, choking and killing everyone on the narrow spiral staircase leading to the bank vault, the brutal crowd attacked the piles of gold and precious stones. Gold coins and jewelry were dragged in buckets, in bowlers, in boots, in knots from shirts, in handfuls. But spontaneous robbery differs from the systematic Leninist one in that you cannot steal much in this way.

The White troops, having dispersed the crowd with shots, took under guard the bank building, the gold reserve of which formed the basis of the infamous Kolchak gold, traces of which cannot be found to this day. In those few cities that Kolchak's army occupied, the admiral collected 8878 pounds, that is, 142 tons of gold. Part of it was spent on the purchase of weapons, and part, sacrificing himself, Kolchak took him abroad, where he was simply stolen.

Panic reigned in Moscow, but no less panic reigned in Petrograd, to which General Yudenich was approaching from the south with a tiny army, half made up of high school students. In a hurry, those who had not yet had time to be shot were shot. Families were also shot. "Let us be remembered for a long time if they win." Zinoviev was dying of fear. Lenin sent him invigorating telegrams: to arm the workers and throw them at Yudenich, placing machine guns of the "internationalists" behind them so that they would not think about retreat. Take the families hostage of the mobilized officers, warning them that all families will be shot if Yudenich is not stopped. Shoot everyone. Especially all the former major military and officials, regardless of age. They have no money, but there is a potential danger. In the whirlwind of massacres, remarkable Russian naval commanders and scientists died: Admiral Skrydlov, Jessen, Shtakelberg, Bakhirev and Razvozov. But the prospect of collapse could not be offset by massacres alone. Other measures were also taken.

At first, everything was done, as usual, in an amateurish way. A once rich hostage, trembling in anticipation of being shot, was approached with an offer to sell real estate to another person, usually a foreign national.

Relevant documents were drawn up, sealed with the signatures of the parties and personal seals. The fact that this real estate (factories, shops, steamships, railways, publishing houses, etc.) had already been nationalized, no one remembered, and the suicide bomber, of course, did not ask any unnecessary questions if he was promised life for the sale of already nationalized property. Then the hostage was shot, all documents about him were confiscated, and he seemed to disappear without a trace. And all rights to his property passed to another person.

Thus, the Bolsheviks planned, in modern terms, to enter the market by privatizing other people's property. If, say, the Whites managed to win, then they would be primarily interested in the fastest possible establishment of economic life. Some privately owned plant would be welcome. The owner of the plant turned out to be a previously unknown Mr. N. But everyone remembered that this plant belonged to the merchant Paramonov. Mr. N. showed the bill of sale, according to which the merchant Paramonov sold the plant to him back in 1916. Why didn't anyone know about this?

Trade secret. The fact is that the former owner was in a very difficult financial situation and did not want publicity. Where is he now? Unknown.

Mr. N. states that after the conclusion of the deal he left Russia and has not seen Mr. Paramonov since the age of 16. You know what time it was. Where everyone was scattered. "There is, however, evidence that Paramonov was captured and killed by the Bolsheviks with his entire family." - "My God! What fiends! What a wonderful person he was!"

Of course, there could inevitably be punctures, private revelations.

It is possible that crafty journalists would put forward a bold version of such an operation, would find witnesses, would suggest that the entire economy of the country is in the hands of Bolshevik agents. But evidence in most cases could not be found. And don't destroy your own economy because of this! Everything works and great. And the political convictions of the owners are a secondary matter.

A little later, when a department of graphologists and counterfeiters appeared in the Cheka, the hostages were no longer disturbed by offers, but simply shot, filling out all the necessary documents independently and at a high level. A huge number of false bank books, bills of exchange, loan letters, bills of sale with notes, starting from 1912, with signatures of famous people, some of which had already died a natural death, and some were destroyed, were made. And often such people were destroyed not only with the whole family, but also with the closest employees, if any could be captured.

All this was envisaged in case of flight from the country and the collapse of the regime, and since the Bolsheviks were never sure of the future during the entire period of their 74-year rule, being most surprised that they had not yet been thrown off, the plan, naturally modernized and corrected, existed has always survived to this day. However, unfortunately, the regime did not collapse. "Remember, there is not a single house in Russia where we have not directly or indirectly killed a mother, father, brother, daughter, son, or even a loved one," Bukharin was surprised. walks on foot (even at night ...) around Moscow; and when we forbid him such promenades, he only laughs contemptuously and declares: "What? They won't dare, dog krev!". And he's right: they won't dare..." Amazing country! And truly amazing things happened in it! From abroad, ciphers came to Moscow with the following content: "I managed to decipher the account in the bank of Kreuz and Funk (Bern) number B - Latin, C - Latin, three hundred forty-eight fifteen ninety-six zero zero seventeen, Z - Latin, T. Account in 1 million 800 thousand Swiss francs belongs to Parfenov Nikodim Panteleevich

- a shareholder of the company "Caucasus and Mercury". The motto of the account could not be determined. Kerd".

It was not in vain that Dzerzhinsky went to Switzerland, and Parvus did his best not in vain. Banks not only accepted gold not laundered from blood, but also pointed the Cheka at their customers, since only a bank employee could send such an encryption. A reference was pinned to the encryption: "Nikodim Panteleevich Parfenov, bridge engineer and industrialist, shareholder of the Volga-Caspian river navigation companies. At present, he is in Kyiv with the Whites. Nothing, wait. You're not going anywhere, my dear. You yourself will tell us both the motto and everything else necessary for withdrawing money. And we will get you abroad if necessary.

Naturally, everyone who had at least some contact with the leaders of the new government went around with pockets full of currency and gold coins.

For some reason, in those days it was still not entirely clear who could do it and who could not.

Even the famous machinist of the "legendary" steam locomotive No. 293 of the Finnish Railway Yalava, who delivered Lenin to Petrograd on the eve of the coup, was caught with foreign currency. For the storage of foreign currency and gold, numerous, duplicating each other decrees and decrees provided for execution without trial or investigation. If you are very lucky, then confiscation. Lenin had to save the driver personally. In a note to the famous KGB executioner Unshlikht, the leader of the world proletariat writes: "Personally knowing Comrade. Yalawa since 1917, I confirm his undoubted honesty and ask him to order the immediate release to him of the money taken from him. Please send me a copy of your order indicating the name of the person responsible for the execution. Second: I ask you to request all the documents about the search from Comrade. Yalava and send them to me. Please return the attached. With com. hello Lenin.

"To Comrade Lenin," Unshlikht urgently telegraphs. - According to the existing provisions, foreign currency is subject to confiscation, which is probably what Petgubcheka did. The time and place of Yalava's arrest is not indicated, which affects the urgency of the execution of your order. With communist greetings, Unshlikht.

On the telegram, Lenin writes a resolution: "T. N. Gorbunov!., tell me the result. 1) Is the money returned? 2) What punishment did Yalava serve and when did he finish? 11/VI. Lenin. At the request of the head of the Cheka, she replied that "everything except gold, silver and foreign currency" had been returned to Yalava.

Thus, the "gold courier" Yalava, who was exporting gold to the Scandinavian banks, got caught, because, of course, something "stuck in his pockets". And, of course, it was discovered and seized.

But not everyone who had old merits got off so lightly, that is, with a simple confiscation. "Burned" and the chairman of the Kronstadt Cheka, the legendary Prince Andronnikov. The prince stole big, but also. did a gigantic job.

In addition to sending goods to Germany and Scandinavia and further to the United States through Kronstadt, he also processed prisoners in the famous Kronstadt prisons, where they sent especially stubborn people who did not want to give away their fortunes under any guise, sign bills of sale and give the codes of their accounts. The former prince worked individually with each of them, squeezed everything out of them, but by no means reported everything to his superiors, compiling his own encrypted file cabinet. Twice he got out of both the Uritsky case and the Boki case, deftly transferring money to his own secret accounts in two banks in Switzerland and Sweden, but naively did not know that secret information was coming from the banks to the Kremlin. "Archival" and "secret" tasks were carried out by the KGB prince both before the coup and after it. Appointed to the Cheka of Kronstadt on the recommendation of Lenin and Dzerzhinsky, Andronnikov knew perfectly well where and with what load they were leaving the Kronstadt

moorings in the foggy darkness of the Baltic Sea, mysterious steamships under incomprehensible flags, or even without a flag at all. And therefore, after the collapse of Germany, his hour has come. But such a person as Prince Andronnikov was not so easy to remove. His authority in the Cheka was too high. And it was necessary to act "archidelicly".

In such a case, Lenin had with him a small team of executors who were registered with the Administration of the Council of People's Commissars and had nothing to do with the Cheka.

The team was engaged in intra-party showdowns when it came to Bolsheviks with a long pre-revolutionary record. Something like a party control commission, but with much greater powers. And the whole business of the prince did not go along the Chekist, but precisely along the party line, for which Lenin sent a secret letter to Zinoviev in Petrograd with the following content: "Comrade. Zinoviev. I ask you to appoint exclusively Party, experienced, absolutely reliable comrades to investigate the behavior of ... the former Prince Andronnikov (a friend of Rasputin, Dubrovin, and so on), serving in the Cheka in Kronstadt. Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Everyone remembered the former prince: friendship with Rasputin and Dubrovin, and service in the Synod, and affairs with the royal court, but they shot him for spying for Germany. Interesting!

On March 1, 1919, an international congress of the "Left Social Democratic Parties" opened in Moscow, which on March 4 declared itself the First Congress of the Comintern. Torn apart by envy and admiration, adventurers from all over the world rushed to Moscow in the hope of snatching for themselves some share from robbery unprecedented in human history and obtaining a method for similarly destroying their own countries. Lenin never hid his plans for world domination and was at his best: "We never hid that our revolution is only the beginning, that it will lead to a victorious end only when we ignite the whole world with such a fire of revolution ... Having implemented Soviet power, we groped an international world form of the dictatorship of the proletariat... Our cause is the cause of the world proletarian revolution, the cause of creating a world Soviet republic... The struggle of the international proletariat against the bourgeoisie is, and must be, in the nature of a frenzied, desperately cruel class struggle... Even now (in 1919) one cannot understand that a civil war between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is going on in Russia (and all over the world is beginning and maturing) could only be a complete idiot, because in a civil war the oppressed class directs its efforts to destroy the oppressor class to the end, to destroy the economic conditions for the existence of this class!" . Well, how could one not flock to Moscow for such calls for world robbery?

On March 5, 1919, a reception was held in the Grand Kremlin Palace in honor of the Congress delegates. Bright electric light flooded the ancient molding of the palace walls - the creation of the architect Ton. The tables were full of food. Carved dishes with caviar, whole-boiled sturgeons, a huge beluga that occupied a third of the table, suckling pigs, pineapples and grapes, old wines that still retain the stamps of private collections (including the royal one) on their labels. Lenin personally signed the order, instructing Gorbunov to deliver to the table from the stocks of the Council of People's Commissars "caviar - 110 pounds, dairy pigs - 800, red fish - 200 pounds." The elegant costumes of the delegates and the bare shoulders of women dressed in the latest European fashion, although they contrasted with the strict jackets of the "people's" commissars, created additional exoticism, making it clear to everyone present that the world revolution was not such a bad thing, and it was worth going for it at a known risk, since it has already been tested in Russia.

In the bloodless and plundered country, famine raged, cannibalism began, mass murders took place without trial or investigation, children of the "rich classes" were brought to the Butyrka prison for mass extermination, epidemics of typhus and typhoid fever raged, hostages rotted alive, dead people stuck out of the snow-covered streets in black masses. Houses

without heating and electricity, and here that very famous "Through the Looking Glass" was already created - a small state with communism already built in the middle of destroyed Russia, classified and guarded more carefully than all state and military secrets, taken together.

And so that no one would have any doubts that the struggle for the happiness of the working class, as well as all other oppressed classes, is bearing fruit, the guests were taken to the Gokhran. This organization, created by Lenin back in 1917, was the central warehouse where looted valuables were brought and from where they were sent somewhere in sealed boxes, creating an inexhaustible flow of gold and diamonds. No fantasy of Scheherazade could imagine anything more impressive than this repository, where all the values accumulated by the country and its inhabitants over several centuries were concentrated. Ivan the Terrible looks miserable, who boasted of his innumerable, as it seemed to him, treasures in front of the English ambassador sent to Moscow by Queen Elizabeth. He would have seen what Lenin owned!

The delegates were getting sick. One of the Cominternists went into hysterics, to which he betrayed his entire petty-bourgeois essence; arrest followed. But he was expelled only in 1922. Understood.[13]

The delegates went home happy and excited. The hosts in Moscow were not stingy: each of the members of the congress took with them enough funds to create "Bolshevik organizations" in their countries and prepare a world revolution. As they said - "We will inflate the world fire on the mountain to all bourgeois! ..".

Not everything went smoothly, of course. Finnish border guards caught the famous Otto Kuusinen trying to smuggle diamonds obtained in Moscow into Finland, some of which were internationally cataloged and whose owners were well known.

The scandal that broke out, although not heard in Moscow, had sufficient resonance in the world. Soon (in February 1920), the disgraced leader of the Finnish labor movement had to flee from the police across the ice of the Gulf of Finland and settle permanently in Moscow, where the grateful Lenin made him secretary of the Comintern executive committee, and Stalin even wanted to make him president of Finland.

Similar "blunders" happened to the delegates of some other countries, but this was not significant, since Moscow did not accept or listen to any complaints, but rubbed its hands rather: Bolshevik parties began to grow everywhere like toadstools in the forest. The soil was well fertilized by the war depression. Only one thing caused concern - nowhere, except for Hungary, no one took active steps.

True, in Hungary all this did not last long. Bela Kun had to flee to Moscow, but still managed to steal some of the Hungarian gold and transfer it abroad, creating his own channel for this. Even then, Lenin began to look with some suspicion at the too nimble Hungarian, but the leader's heart was amused by the terror that Bela Kun began in Hungary, but, alas, did not have time to finish. Did not have enough time. Consolation was especially necessary, since the German comrades had failed terribly with their proletarian revolution. They seemed to have everything sorted out. An, no.

The cowardly Social Democrats did not dare to apply Leninist methods in Germany when they came to power after the fall of the monarchy. Moreover, they allowed the Kaiser to escape to Holland and, having suppressed the communist revolt with armed force, expelled from Germany the Soviet envoy Radek, who had been sent to Berlin to "deepen" the German revolution. Diplomatic relations with Moscow were severed. At the same time killed

Lenin's agents K. Liebknecht and R. Luxembourg arrested a number of bank accounts so frivolously placed in Germany on the advice of Parvus. Who would have thought it would turn out like this!

The enraged Lenin, as always, without embarrassment in expressions, attacked his yesterday's cronies with terrible abuse: monarchy and the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie". Relations with Germany were restored only after the "bourgeois" parties again came to power there. Lenin was

vindictive.

In July 1920, the Second Congress of the Comintern opened first in Petrograd and then in Moscow. If at the First Congress they elected the leadership of the Comintern and elected Zinoviev as its chairman, they ate to their heart's content, drank, drank, bought themselves gold and diamonds, then at the Second Congress they began to speak on the merits. Yes, the situation was completely different. The Don and Kuban Cossacks, who abandoned the volunteer army to the mercy of fate, initiated the collapse of the White movement, whose slogan: "For Russia, one and indivisible" - did not find a response from the multinational population of the dying empire. The Poles, who had gathered to march with Denikin, who was in desperate need of any reinforcements, demanded recognition of their independence. The Finns demanded the same from Yudenich at the talks on a joint campaign against Petrograd. "We do not trade in Russia," the leaders of the White Cause invariably answered, preferring inevitable defeat to the rejection of their sacred patriotic principles.

Russia was traded by others, and quite briskly.

The collapse of the white movement opened bright prospects for the October coup on a global scale. Therefore, the main questions of the program, strategy, tactics and organization of the Comintern were at the center of attention of the Second Congress. The decisions of the Second Congress on all these questions, worked out under the direct guidance of Lenin, formed the basis of the program and all the work of the Comintern. Opening the Congress, Lenin proclaimed his favorite thesis: "Our cause is the cause of the world proletarian revolution, the cause of the creation of the world Soviet republic" (long applause, the orchestra plays the "Internationale").

Lenin's thought was developed by the chairman of the Comintern, Zinoviev, teaching at several meetings of delegates how things should be organized in order to go straight to world domination: "The decisive means of struggle for us is an armed uprising, and this requires the organization of revolutionary forces on a military footing, and therefore the consignment".

In accordance with the task set, the Congress adopted the charter of the Comintern as a single international communist party with national "sections" in different countries. As a result, it was quite natural to create the Military Department of the Comintern, which defined its task as follows: "By the very course of the historical revolutionary process, the working class will be forced to go over to the attack when favorable conditions arise for this ... The Red Army, the main weapon of the working class, must be prepared in such a way in order to fulfill its offensive mission on any sector of the future front ... The boundaries of this front, in the immediate turn, are determined by the boundaries of the entire continent of the Old World. Those were the appetites.

The resolution adopted by the congress on the main tasks of the Communist International read: "Only the violent overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the confiscation of its property, the destruction of the entire bourgeois state apparatus from top to bottom, parliamentary,

judicial, military, administrative, municipal, etc., can ensure the triumph of the proletarian revolution." For its success, the international communist party must be built "on the basis of iron proletarian centralism" and "military discipline."

In addition, the congress also adopted a very wordy and aggressive manifesto to all the working people of the whole world with a call to "kill imperialism."

However, for the effective actions of such an international military-terrorist organization, in addition to Marxism, unprincipled enthusiasm, inhuman cruelty, resolutions, charters and manifestos, a lot of money was also needed, and where could they get it, if not in the capital of the future world proletarian empire, where and the congress was held, that is, in Moscow. Therefore, "it was decided to turn to the Russian Communist Party with a proposal to temporarily assume the main burden of material costs for the work of the Executive Committee of the Comintern."

The stolen money is easily spent. There were two answers at once: one from Lenin, the second from Zinoviev.

Lenin, with uncharacteristic tenderness, wrote: "The Russian Communist Party, of course, considered it a duty of honor for itself to meet this proposal of the Executive Committee." Zinoviev echoed him: "The Russian Communist Party considers it a duty of the greatest honor to come to the aid of the fraternal parties in every way it can." [14]

Having received huge sums from Moscow, representatives of the "fraternal" parties famously set to work. Firms and joint-stock companies were created - fake and real, real estate was bought up, statesmen were bribed, strikes and even acts of sabotage were organized. Like a tsunami, all sorts of communist newspapers and magazines fell upon war-bled Europe, predicting the inevitable death of European civilization, giving rise to a wide variety of side trends like fascism and Nazism. The military department did not doze off either, creating militant "detachments of the proletariat" throughout Europe, such as the Rotfrontkamlfbund, where, among many others, the future president of Chile, Allende, began his career. They sewed uniforms for them, bought weapons, which, if necessary, could be obtained for free in any Soviet embassy or trade mission. A "pan-European proletarian revolution" was ripening.

But no matter how pleased it was, the transformation of Europe into a huge field of devastating civil war required advance measures to place the gold pumped out of Russia somewhere in a safer place. Switzerland and Sweden, and even more so, Germany ruled by "bastards and traitors" were not suitable for this purpose. Especially Switzerland, where there was a well-thought-out plan to evacuate the contents of bank safes to such alpine vaults where even the "worldwide Cheka" would not have found them for a hundred years. Therefore, it was decided in advance, in compliance with all the rules, to begin transferring money to banks in the United States. America was far away and was not part of Lenin's immediate plans, and it was even more pleasant to deal with its leading financiers than with the silent Swiss gnomes.

The only trouble was that, according to American law, large deposits in US banks could be made only if there were extensive trade relations with American firms approved by the government. Unlike Switzerland, American banks have never been mere vaults, but rather the heart that funnels gold into the arteries of the national economy. We are talking about the time when there was no International Monetary Fund, no economic unions, no international banking systems. Swiss banks, in contrast to the present,

were not yet connected to the world economy, which simply did not exist, and were engaged, roughly speaking, in simple hoarding and usury.

Imperialism was only born, not dying. It was his infantile cry that Lenin mistook for a dying moan and, inspired by this discovery, began to joyfully dig the grave of imperialism, into which, in the end, he had to lie himself along with his delusional "teaching".

And America has always been America. She did not understand 19th-century Europe, much less Russia. Where could she understand that bloody and misanthropic regime, which human history has not yet known for 50 centuries?! The American Ambassador Francis, who understood what had happened in Russia back in 1917, sent dispatches to the State Department in vain, calling for intervention and overthrowing this "bloody tyranny of international gangsters." But President Wilson stood firmly on the position of "non-intervention in the internal affairs of Russia." In September 1918, the American consul in Moscow, D. Poole, officially protested against the massacres of innocent people. This protest was supported by representatives of several neutral countries. Lenin, through Chicherin, replied that these protests "constitute an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Russia", while angrily denouncing the terror to which the "bourgeoisie" in other countries subjected the "working masses". In October 1918, Lenin sent a note to President Wilson with a wonderful "proposal" "that the basis of the alliance of peoples should be the expropriation of capital from the capitalists of all countries."

But Lenin would not have been Lenin if for every speech, document or message he had not had a speech, document or message of a completely opposite content, which indicates more likely a progressive schizophrenia than a "brilliant flexibility". It is not for nothing that historians have been hitting each other with Lenin's quotations for 75 years now, trying to figure out which of them best reflects "the ingenious plans of the leader of the world proletariat."

Almost immediately after this ridiculous note, a flattering message is sent to President Wilson, full of peacefulness and friendliness. The note assured Wilson that "most of the points of your peace program are included in the more far-reaching and extensive program of the Russian workers and peasants," that "the so-called 'Red Terror', which is grossly exaggerated and misunderstood abroad," was "the direct result and consequence of Allied invasions of Russian territory, and that the continuation of the struggle and "intervention" may inspire "the complete extermination of the Russian bourgeoisie by the desperate masses."

Note stressed that "the workers and peasants of Russia want nothing but their own happiness and an international brotherhood that poses no threat to other nations." President Wilson planned to convene a peace conference on the island of Prinkipo in the Sea of Marmara, where he hoped, not knowing with whom he was dealing, to put the Bolsheviks at the negotiating table with the "whites" so that they would come to at least some agreement. Nothing came of it, of course. Then the president decided to get first-hand information about what was actually happening in Russia, and seconded to Moscow from Paris an employee of the State Department, William Bullitt, who was instructed to "enter into direct contact with the Bolshevik leaders in order to submit to the State Department detailed report on the political and economic situation in Russia.

In March 1919, Bullitt arrived in Moscow, where he stayed for a week. Drinking a Martini and snacking on "excellent Russian chocolate," several kilograms of which, along with two ermine skins, he took with him to America, Bullitt had "long and pleasant conversations" with Lenin, Chicherin and Litvinov, found them "the most intelligent, civilized people in in the best sense of the word." And therefore, in his report to the State Department, he trustingly repeated the fables told to him "under chocolate":

the communist party is strong politically and morally. Complete order reigns in Petrograd and Moscow. There is no terror. Talking about hunger is ridiculous. (Still would!). Great progress has been made in the field of education. Secretary of State Lansing had the good sense to immediately archive this nonsense, and Bullitt to retire.

Just at the same time, when Bullitt was drinking a Martini with Lenin, listening to his tales, in New York, like a theatrical devil from the hatch, a certain L. Marten appeared - one of the most obscure personalities among Lenin's entourage, a member of the party since 1893 of the year. Not at all embarrassed by the fact that there were no diplomatic relations between the United States and the RSFSR, Marten declared himself "representative of the RSFSR in the USA", bought a house, opened his office there and sent an extensive memorandum to the State Department explaining the situation in Russia and the nature of his mission. . Noting that the Soviet government "is a government controlled and responsible to all strata of the population who want to engage in useful work," that "90% of the adult population of Russia has all political and civil rights, directly participating in the management of "society"", Marten, in the summary of his memorandum, openly declares the true purpose of his appearance in the United States: " The Russian government is ready to immediately place \$200 million worth of gold in American banks to pay for the cost of the first purchases.

200 million dollars as the first deposit, so as not to violate the federal law of the United States and gain a foothold in their banking system.

According to the law, a "large foreign contribution" is an amount of 5 million dollars, and here as much as 200! (Approximately 4 billion at the current dollar rate). The State Department did not believe it, remained silent for a long time, and then published a message emphasizing that the US government does not recognize the "so-called Soviet government" and recommends "extreme caution" in dealing with those who pretend to be representatives of the "Bolshevik government".

In other words, do what you want guys, but keep in mind that these guys from Moscow may turn out to be big scammers. Moreover, the US government continued to recognize the Russian ambassador B. Bakhmetyev, appointed to this post by the Provisional Government, as a representative of Russia.

But such methods did not confuse the self-proclaimed Leninist plenipotentiary.

Ludwig Karl Martens, a German by birth and citizenship, saw something else. Even before the revolution, he was arrested twice and deported to Germany for trying to organize unrest in Russian factories. Suspected of espionage.

He returned with Lenin to Russia in April 1917, continuing to communicate with his compatriots. Under a hot hand, he was arrested and almost shot in January 1919, when the "betrayal" of the German socialists was discovered. Released on the instructions of Lenin as "a completely reliable comrade."

Despite his illegal position, Martens begins to conduct extensive negotiations with American banks and firms, placing money and orders worth about \$ 8 billion with them. Moscow is in a hurry. On May 27, 1919, Martens received a telegram signed by Litvinov, who was in charge of a similar operation in England: "The striving for rapprochement with America runs like a red thread through our entire foreign policy over the past year ... We did not miss the opportunity to note our special desire to get in touch with America ... We are ready to give all kinds of economic concessions to the Americans in preference to other foreigners." A desperate attempt was made to bind America firmly to itself before the planned invasion of Europe. But trying to provide

money and concessions, the sympathies of the United States did not forget about their interests either.

Although Martens went out of his way to convince the American authorities of the complete peacefulness of the "Soviet" government and its complete unwillingness to interfere in the internal affairs of the United States, the police, who searched the building of the "Soviet representative office", found whole bundles of unambiguous leaflets there. "To the workers of America! leaflets were broadcasting invitingly. — The struggle of the workers against imperialism is a civil war which is turning into an open armed struggle for power. The Communist International is the general staff of such a civil war and world revolution. We speak directly to you, the workers of America, because your task is the most important task for the world revolution. Only your victory can ensure the final victory of the world revolution.

The overthrow of American imperialism—the strongest and most ferocious in the whole world, the last stronghold of international capitalism—by the workers of the United States and Latin America will be the decisive phase of the world revolution. This is your and, at the same time, our task!"

Martens was expelled from the USA. The file of agents of the "Comintern", found during the search, allowed the American authorities to arrest 249 people and deport them from the United States as "undesirable foreigners." All of them were loaded onto a ship and sent to Russia. In addition to the file cabinet, which Martens thoughtlessly kept in the "representation", having convinced himself that, despite his illegal position, he had diplomatic immunity, which he never had, the US authorities also discovered a mass of financial documents proving that the "plenipotentiary" of Moscow was nothing more than an intermediary between the banks of Europe and America.

"It seems," wrote the New York Herald Tribune, "that the Bolshevik revolution taking place in Russia is in fact a giant financial operation, the purpose of which is to move huge funds from Russian control to the control of European and American banks.

The true reason for such actions, apparently, is known only in the Kremlin, but even now it can be said for sure: no matter how militant speeches about the world Bolshevik revolution and the inevitable collapse of capitalism are uttered by Mr. Lenin and Co., they, perhaps without realizing it, are doing everything to ensure the prosperity and rapid growth of our economy and the stability of the dollar for many years to come. Mr. Ludwig Martens was expelled from the United States, although, in fairness, he should have been erected a monument no less than the Lincoln memorial. (January 24, 1921, "Self-proclaimed ambassador expelled from USA")."

After spending nearly two years in the US, Marten completed at least one part of his task. A huge amount of gold was pumped from unstable Europe to US banks, contacts were made with banks, and some of them were simply bought, joint firms were created (of course, through nominees, using US liberal laws), a number of newspapers were launched and two whole communist parties were created. United States (they later merged).

Meanwhile, events in Russia developed rapidly. The remnants of the White Army retreated to the Crimea, where they were blocked from land, and their destruction was already a matter of time. Lenin had every right to proudly declare: "At present, the task of overcoming and suppressing resistance in Russia has been completed in its main features. RUSSIA CONQUERED BY THE BOLSHEVIKS. (In September 194, Hitler, speaking to the commanders of army groups, defined his position with no less frankness: "We are not liberating Russia

from the Bolshevik regime. We CONQUER it. That is why the occupation regime must be the strictest.")[15]

Around the same time, Lenin, theorizing in the field of law, wrote to the People's Commissar of Justice D. Kursky: "comrade. Kursk! In my opinion, it is necessary to expand the use of execution", which, in the opinion of the leader, should cover persons "contributing" and "capable of contributing" (!), That is, "anyone".

So, Russia is conquered.

What to do next? What state to build? It turned out that no one really thought about this, since they did not hope to conquer Russia. Nothing came to mind, except for the old, like the world, Plato's "socialist" scheme, developed 2000 years ago, ELITE - GUARDS - SLAVES. The guard stands between the elite and the slaves, the guard has a chance to get into the elite or into the slaves, depending on the service zeal. Myths are needed to educate the guards, slaves should not know anything about the elite and the like. Plato called it the "Ideal State". At the same time, the ancient philosopher correctly pointed out that socialism cannot be built in any other society than the slave-owning one ...

Everything was clear with the peasants. They must give away bread free of charge, leaving themselves only for half-starved food, and the state will give them grain for the next sowing. "It is easy to say: a grain monopoly," Lenin taught, "but you have to think about what it means. This means that all surplus grain belongs to the state ... that every extra pood of grain must be taken into the hands of the state. It is necessary that every extra pood of bread be found and brought." Such a food dictatorship, no matter how robbery and inhuman it may be, of course, was not an end in itself, since it was necessary to feed not only the elite and the guards, but also the slaves. And the slaves had to always remember that they were fed only as long as they were obedient. Therefore, it was simply necessary to keep all the bread in your hands and distribute it at your discretion.

"Because by distributing it," the leader of the world proletariat looked into the future, "we will dominate all areas of labor!" No, it would be impossible to deny Lenin's genius if Plato had not invented all this.

The peasants seem to have been dealt with. And what about the workers? With the same proletariat, in whose name and in the name of which this gang acted. Unsuccessfully eking out a half-starved existence in their factories and dying of typhus, in the fire of terror and civil war, they waited for everything to be divided equally and, finally, the wonderful project of uniting workers in the labor army with division into regiments and battalions with the strictest military discipline would begin to be implemented. The authorship of this project is given to Trotsky, but if Trotsky had any differences with Lenin on this matter, it was only in details.

Trotsky suggested that in the labor armies we confine ourselves to military discipline and military penalties, but Lenin, shaking his wise head, constantly taught: "We must use executions more widely." Otherwise, nothing will work. But he didn't insist. Life itself will show his opponents that he, Lenin, was right, and not they. "Pipers" (this is how strike workers began to be called in the language of the Bolsheviks), of course, must be shot without trial. Everyone was in agreement here. And although all these tasks were consistently and ruthlessly carried out, they were considered extremely secondary.

Russia has been conquered, and now, as Lenin figuratively declared, "the time has come to feel Europe with a bayonet!"

The Red Army's invasion of Poland was the realization of the first stage of the World Revolution. The balance of the European countries, Lenin analyzed, is based on a fragile

basis of the Treaty of Versailles. "A few more days of the victorious offensive of the Red Army," the leader broadcast in a fighting enthusiasm, "and not only Warsaw will be taken (it was not so important), but the Treaty of Versailles will be destroyed ...". Poland is only a bridge on the way of the Red Army to Europe! Across the Polish bridge to the aid of the German proletariat!

The commander of the Soviet troops, M. Tukhachevsky, sends a famous letter to Zinoviev. Speaking for the first time in the field of military theory, the future marshal of the Soviet Union writes that it is necessary to convene the General Staff of the Comintern, which, after the final defeat of the Poles, would urgently develop a plan for the invasion of Europe. To do this, it is necessary to equip the Red Army with the proletariat of the whole world in order to "create sufficient forces for ourselves to conquer the bourgeois states of the whole world."

The defeat of the Red Army near Warsaw, its rapid retreat (It's a shame! Guy's cavalry has already entered Germany!) gave the adventurers in the Kremlin a cold shower. The twelve-inch thunder of the rebellious Kronstadt became the death tocsin for the insane Leninist obsessions of world domination.

The country was engulfed in the fire of uprisings. On August 13, 1920, the famous Antonov uprising began, engulfing the entire Tambov province and part of adjacent regions. 40,000 peasants and workers took up arms. The congress of the Tambov rebels declared the Soviet government overthrown and demanded new elections to the Constituent Assembly.

In January 1921, an uprising broke out in Western Siberia, covering 20 districts. 60 thousand peasants formed a people's army, cutting off all communications and capturing several cities, including Tobolsk.

The well-known Grigoriev uprising in Ukraine, where the rebels even had their own artillery and armored trains, was of international importance.

Because of him, the Red Army failed to invade Hungary through Romania and restore the criminal regime of Bela Kun. Bela Kun fled back to Moscow. In the future, he still had a lot of work to do in the occupied country.

A general strike swept through Izhevsk, during which thirty thousand people's "Izhevsk People's Army" was formed. Moreover, the workers, surprisingly, came up with purely peasant demands: to stop the requisitioning and confiscation of peasant property. The unreliability of the Red Army also grew. Desertion and evasion from service averaged 20%, reaching up to 90% in some areas. 250,000 armed deserters roamed the forests of the central provinces alone. One infantry brigade, made up of Tula peasants, revolted in Belarus, united with local peasant rebels, founding the "People's Republic without communists, executions and robberies."

In July 1920, the red commander Sapozhnikov mutinied his own unit of 2,700 Red Army soldiers. The uprising swept vast areas of the Volga region and outlived Sapozhnikov himself. After his death, the uprising was led by Serov, who was active until January 1922.

In December 1920, another red commander, Vakulin, mutinied on the Don. After the death of Vakulin, his successor Popov by March 1921 had a powerful cavalry unit of 6,000 men under arms. In January 1921, the red brigade commander Maslak took his brigade from the 1st Cavalry Army to the legendary peasant leader Nestor Makhno.

And, of course, the mutiny culminated in March 1921, when the naval base in Kronstadt rebelled, powerfully rattling the guns of the battleships. The cynic Trotsky correctly noted that in Kronstadt "a peasant had a conversation with Lenin, using

as a mouthpiece to be heard, heavy naval artillery.

Lenin heard. Terrified, he admits on March 15, 1921: "We barely held on to power." Fear and the instinct of self-preservation suggested the only possible way out - the NEP.

Bukharin recalls: "When all of us, like sheep, stood for extreme war communism, and by executions forced the accursed peasants to give us all their bread, who, if not Lenin, saw that we would thunder not today or tomorrow, and the scoundrel Pahom would unscrew our heads shouted to us: "Stop! Enough, fools, turn back the shafts! And at the last minute he forced us to switch to a "tax in kind", as, by the way, was the name of Lenin's pamphlet, scolded by me, in a theoretical sense completely mediocre ... Who, if not Lenin, dared, to the horror of "pure" communists (and, consequently, to to my horror), proclaim the NEP and thereby save the position of the whole party? Everything indicates that Lenin during this period was seized with panic and disappointment. The introduction of the NEP, better than any other evidence, shows that none of these criminal adventurers ever, either before or after 1917, even in theory had a plan for any state building (except for Plato's scheme, modeled on which Stalin and later built his own empire. The motivation for their actions was unequivocal - to plunder and destroy Russia, its people and its culture. There was also no clear and well-thought-out plan for the world revolution. Everything was improvisation on the go.

A clear plan for world domination would also be drawn up later by Stalin and almost succeed, but be thwarted by Hitler and Roosevelt.

The panic that seized Lenin, who realized the precariousness of the position of his gang, was reflected in a sharp increase in terror. In Petrograd, the case of Tagantsev, in which Gumilyov will perish, is being hastily sewn with white thread, although the case was directed against the surviving naval officers. A fleet without officers cannot exist, so there were still a lot of command staff on the ships, consisting of former midshipmen, midshipmen and lieutenants. All of them were captured almost on the same day. It was revenge for the Kronstadt rebellion, in which they did not participate. Those who took part went across the ice to Finland. Such (and not only in this example) was the purely Asian vindictiveness of Lenin, who immediately announced that the Soviet Republic did not need a fleet and should be replaced by naval units of the Cheka.[16]

Lenin had every reason to be in the worst possible mood. The damned "NEP" embittered all of his entourage, most of whom were not going to stay in Russia for a long time, and having divided the booty, disappear as suddenly as they appeared. Those who dreamed of reigning here while it was possible were also dissatisfied. Freedom of trade and market was bound to undermine their thrones. Was it not Lenin himself who, almost on the day of the Kronstadt uprising, orated from the rostrum of the Tenth Congress, convincing his accomplices that the introduction of free trade "will inevitably lead to the power of the White Guards, to the triumph of capitalism, to the complete restoration of the old regime. And I repeat: it is necessary to be clearly aware of this political danger.

Lenin reassured them as best he could, mainly by sending out personal letters of stenciled content: "We are carrying out a strategic retreat, which will enable us in the very near future to launch an offensive on a broad front. It would be a big mistake to think that the NEP put an end to terror. We must soon return to terror, both political and economic."

The brain disease worsened.[17]

Inessa Armand, the only woman whom Lenin loved, died. In the country

a terrible famine began, on the Volga - cases of cannibalism.

And, as if all this was not enough, a denunciation came that boxes of gold were floating away from the Gokhran. The denunciation was written on May 16, 1921 by the famous Yakov Yurovsky, the same Yurovsky who in July 1918 led the murder of the royal family in Yekaterinburg, and then delivered their valuables to Moscow. For this double "feat" Yurovsky was awarded a job in Gokhran, the holy of holies of the Bolsheviks. Lenin immediately called Yurovsky and, after a conversation of almost three hours, found out that some unknown vehicles were taking almost tons of gold out of the Gokhran, having orders signed by the head of the Council of People's Commissars and endorsed by Lenin himself. Yurovsky said that the orders were allegedly false and that some of the employees of the Gokhran, who were arrested by the Cheka and shot back in April, were involved in this case.

As it turned out, Lenin knew nothing about this. However, even after that, the export of gold and diamonds continued. Yurovsky allegedly authorized new arrests, but then Bokiya began to interfere with him, who, after a scandal with the grand dukes in Petrograd, was transferred to Moscow and oversaw the Gokhran as an employee of the board of the Cheka. In anger, Lenin demanded an explanation from Bokiya. He already knew Gleb Bokiya well, and how big he works. But he needed to be grabbed by the hand from time to time in order to force him to share not only with his immediate superiors, but also with the highest. It is interesting that it was Bokiya who forwarded Yurovsky's denunciation to Lenin and ordered him to report what it all means? Bokiya reacted sluggishly, escaping with a telephone message. On May 23, he reported that Yurovsky's information was, to put it mildly, greatly exaggerated. That the thefts did take place, but they were so small that it's not worth talking about them. As for the documents that Yurovsky is talking about, they are all genuine, they are in the secret documentation, and, if you like, Lenin himself can verify this. However, measures have already been taken to reduce petty theft in Gokhran to a minimum. And in general, as if by the way, Bokiya notes, it is impossible to completely stop thefts in the Gokhran under the current staff, clearly alluding to Yurovsky.

Lenin behaved somewhat strangely in this matter. Without even mentioning that, according to Yurovsky, allegedly false documents with his and Gorbunov's signatures appear in the case, on May 24, 1921, he sent a nervous letter to Bokiya: "Comrade. Bokiya! Received your telephone message, Totally dissatisfied. You can not do it this way. You must investigate the matter in detail and give me accurate information, and not such a "look into something": "exaggerated", "complete cessation of the theft is impossible" (?!?!). This is a disgrace, not a report.

- 1) tell me all the responsible persons;
- 2) describe the organization of the case;
- 3) list the thefts all, exactly; time; sum;
- 4) how many of all employees (... their composition? Length of service? Etc.);
- 5) what measures are taken there to stop theft? Specify the exact measures;
- 6) when was the trial and punishment there (IV. 1920)? All cases of large ships?

Total punished? Notify me of receipt of this and the due date.

Previous SNK V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Without waiting for an investigation by the Cheka, on May 29 Lenin wrote a secret order to Deputy People's Commissar for Finance Alsky, who had recently been transferred to this post from the post of head of the Accounting and Distribution Department of the Cheka. Alsky (aka Malsky) is quite "his" person, went through the school of Parvus, arrived with Lenin in Russia in April 1917, knows the service.

Lenin sends him personally drawn up instructions on strengthening order in the Gokhran, interspersed with outright threats and hints, which Alsky, in Lenin's opinion, cannot fail to understand: "comrade. Alsky! I draw your attention to this report, presented to me by my specially authorized person under the agreement with Comrade. Dzerzhinsky comrade from the Cheka. It's not good in Gokhran.

I draw your most serious attention to this. You - first of all, then the entire staff of the collegium of Narkomfin and comrade. Basha specifically should give Gokhran ten times more work. If, in the shortest possible time, the case in Gokhran is not reorganized in such a way as to completely eliminate the possibility of theft, but at the same time speed up all the work and increase its size, then the Deputy People's Commissar and all members of the collegium of the People's Commissariat of Finance will be brought not only to party, but also to criminal liability. From the delay in the work of the Gokhran (it is difficult to work in the winter, there is a lot to be done before winter), from theft in it, the Republic suffers gigantic losses, because it is now, in difficult days, that we need to quickly get the maximum of valuables for the exchange of goods with foreign countries "(Remember these words, we will return to them later. - I. B.). "Necessary:

- 1) organize regular and frequent meetings with Boki for the fastest possible reorganization of the Gokhran;
- 2) to bring security and supervision to perfection (special fences, closets or fences for changing clothes; surprise searches; systems of double and triple surprise checks in accordance with all the rules of the art of criminal investigation, etc., etc., etc.);
- 3) to involve, if necessary, tens and hundreds of responsible and unconditionally honest communists of Moscow to participate (say once a month or 2 months) in sudden day and night revisions. Instructions for both employees and auditors should be archaic;
- 4) without exception, all members of the collegium of the Narkomfin are obliged, at least once a month, suddenly, day and night, to personally revise the Gokhran at the place of work and wherever there may be theft. The deputy commissar is obliged to personally keep a secret journal of these revisions.

In view of the confidential nature of this paper, I ask you to return it to me immediately, so that all members of the collegium of the Narkomfin personally sign here.

29. V. Prev. SNK V. Ulyanov (Lenin).

(R S. If Chutskaev has not left yet, let him read it too: he has a lot of guilt!) "

What gigantic losses does Lenin speak of in this document, specifically emphasizing this word? Could the theft of petty employees (loaders, appraisers, sorters) really cause "giant" losses in the Gokhran, where all the technical personnel worked under the constant fear of arrest and subsequent execution without trial? What other checks were needed when practically all those working in the Gokhran were employees of the Cheka? And, finally, what kind of commodity exchange was then carried out with foreign countries, which Lenin mentioned, hinting to Alsky that this would require a maximum of values? The answers to these questions, no matter how intriguing they may look, lie almost on the surface.

Back in October 1920, feeling more or less confident, Lenin signed a decree (October 26) "On the sale of antiques abroad", meaning to legalize, as far as possible, the transfer of Russia's national treasure abroad, since the secret operations were, to a certain extent, risky and required considerable expenses. A so-called "expert commission" was sent to Europe, headed by Rakitsky, a "super reliable" man.

The first auctions were organized in Paris, London and Florence, which caused a sensation and a terrible scandal, as many knew the owners of the items put up for auction. They also knew that their former owners had been shot or were missing. However, no one could produce any documents required for a democratic court, proving the illegality of the sale of antiques. Auctions, thanks to the low prices and the uniqueness of the items put up for them, were a great success, promising fantastic profits. Hundreds of firms rushed to Lenin's "experts", offering cooperation in robbery. By this time, the number of confiscated valuables in Russia was measured in thousands of tons, and often in cubic meters. What immediately drew the attention of all those involved in the "legal" transactions (and what European newspapers wrote with surprise at first) was the fact that the money raised at auctions, Soviet experts would not be transferred to Russia, but to bank accounts in Europe and America. Some experts took the proceeds in cash, stuffing their suitcases with banknotes. The case took on a worldwide dimension.

By this time, the "Through the Looking Glass" of the Leninist nomenklatura had fully taken shape, which immediately showed its boundless licentiousness and greed. Members of the Leninist Central Committee lived, as a rule, in old mansions, showing a painful weakness for expensive furniture, table gold and silver, precious services and carpets, as well as for paintings by old masters in massive gold frames.

Overcoats and kosovorotkas were something like overalls. The mansions even retained the old trained staff of servants, butlers and cooks. In the Yusupov mansion near Moscow, where Trotsky settled, even young adjutants from former cornets survived, famously saluting, clicking their heels and able to respectfully bow their heads with an impeccable old-fashioned parting.

Lenin, although he laughed, did not interfere with all this, since he himself did not go very far. Daily signing orders and requirements for the dining room of the Central Committee and for various Kremlin services, he carefully followed the assortment of products, which necessarily included three varieties of pressed caviar, various types of meat, sausages, cheeses, delicacy fish, especially pickled cucumbers, pickled and salted, which he loved (when there were no fresh ones), mushrooms and three types of coffee. Lenin was a gourmet, and in the midst of an unprecedented famine that claimed tens of thousands of people a day, he could reprimand Gorbunov that "yesterday the caviar had a strange smell", "the mushrooms were in an ugly marinade" and that "it would be nice to put the cook in jail for a week." The estate of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in the village of Gorki near Moscow passed to Lenin.

The entire population of the village was evicted. The deserted houses were inhabited by security guards-internationalists, who are now collectively called for some reason "Latvian Riflemen", although there were only about 20 Latvians there.[19]

Such a life, of course, I really liked, and I did not want to part with it. Therefore, knowing about Lenin's original plan of transferring all valuables abroad in the name of "world revolution" and the subsequent flight, the nomenklatura constantly put pressure on the leader that there were no grounds for flight. We must continue to build "socialism" in Russia according to a well-established methodology: confiscations and executions. Lenin invariably agreed, loudly assuring his accomplices as early as March 1921 that there would be no indulgences or changes in the Party's doctrines and policies.

The announcement of the NEP, that is, the transfer of the country to the rails of a more or less civilized life, was perceived by many as capitulation, betrayal and a signal to "prepare to flee." No matter how hard Lenin tried to prove the opposite, everyone already knew very well his unscrupulousness, Asian cunning and cunning. Through the labyrinths of the Cheka, an "opinion" crawled like a hissing snake: "Ilyich must be removed." VChK launched an operation to export valuables

Gokhran to their secret vaults. In other words, those who wanted to stay took their share from those who wanted to run. However, Lenin's power was still quite strong, and there was no unity in the Cheka and the Central Committee themselves, as a result of which Yurovsky's denunciation followed, which caused such a stormy reaction from Lenin. Gleb Boky, as he was ordered, began an investigation. Gokhran appraiser Yakov Shelekhes, a friend of Yurovsky, who before the revolution, like Shelekhes, was a jeweler and watchmaker, was immediately arrested and accused of embezzlement. From Shelekhes they quickly began to extort the necessary testimony. Yurovsky rushed to Lenin, and Lenin immediately tried to pull Shelekhes out of the clutches of the Cheka. On August 8, 1921, he sent a secret note to Unshlikht, Dzerzhinsky's deputy and Boki's immediate superior: "To the Cheka, comrade. Unshlikht. Please let me know the reasons for the arrest. Shelekhes Yakov Savelyevich and whether it is possible to release him before trial on bail of party comrades or transfer from places of detention of the Cheka to Butyrka prison."

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Well, now - pipes! The arrest of Shelekhes caused a real stir in the ranks of the Bolshevik-Leninists. But the Cheka, perhaps for the first time since its inception, pretended not to hear the cries of frightened leaders. Unshlikht wrote a resolution on Lenin's note: "Comrade. Boky, send me an urgent certificate. On the same note, Boki wrote a whole message to Lenin."

Reminding Lenin that he himself had ordered an investigation, Boki expressed bewilderment as to why Lenin now, when the culprit of the theft has been exposed, arrested and names accomplices, is exerting such overt pressure on him, Boki, in order to get Shelekhes out of the blow. About Shelekhes, Boki emphasized irritably, they ask him ten times a day, interfering with his work.

Perhaps, openly mocking, Boki asked, there are some relations between Lenin and Shelekhes unknown to him, Boki, that Lenin intercedes and fusses so fervently for him? At the end of the letter, Boki convincingly asks Lenin to allow him to ignore all petitions and pressures in the Gokhran case, answering Lenin in essence: "I don't find it possible to be released pending trial, during the investigation."

Lenin goes berserk, trying to influence insolent executors through the chairman of the Cheka, Felix Dzerzhinsky. But Dzerzhinsky and Boky are an old and seasoned team. A graduate of a Jesuit college, knowing perfectly well what they want from him, nevertheless, drinks blood from Lenin: "But you yourself ordered, Vladimir Ilyich ... And why are you so sure that this Shelekhes is innocent?" Having received assurances from Dzerzhinsky that Shelekhes' testimony would die (with him) in the Cheka, Lenin realized that the accomplice could not be saved, that the Cheka had long been collecting materials against him. In dismay, he writes a response to Boki, trying, not very well, to explain his participation in the petitions for Shelekhes:

"August 9, 1921.

Tov. Boky!

In your letter about Shelekhes (Yakov Savelyevich) you say: "they are working for him right up to Lenin" and ask to be allowed to pay no attention to any petitions and pressures in the Gokhran case.

I can't resolve this.

The request sent by me is neither "hassle", nor "pressure", nor "petition".

I am obliged to ask, since doubts about the correctness are pointed out to me.

You are obligated to answer me essentially: the arguments or evidence are serious, such and such. I am against "liberation", against "mitigation", etc., etc. So, in essence, you owe me answer.

Petitions and "troubles" You can reject; "pressure" is an illegal act. But, I repeat, your confusion of the request from the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars with a petition, troubles and pressure is wrong.

Previous SNK V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Well, good, good. Excuse me, Vladimir Ilyich. We are not going to let you down at all. Only you, please, also do not meddle in our affairs. After all, you know very well what it is. Didn't you send us the following note back in April 1921:

"Top secret.

T. Unshlikht and Bokiyl

This is a disgrace, not a job! You can't work like that. Love what they write. Immediately find, if necessary, together with Narkomfin and comrade. Basha leaked.

In view of the secrecy of the paper, I ask you to immediately return it to me along with the attached and your opinion.

Previous SNK Lenin.

"Attached" was a clipping from the New York Times newspaper with a translation already made (personally by Lenin, judging by the handwriting, a translation): the only difference is that the legendary caliph kept his treasures in the cellars of his palace in Baghdad, while the Bolsheviks, on the contrary, prefer to keep their wealth in the banks of Europe and America. Only in the past year, as we have learned, the Bolshevik leaders received:

From Trotsky - 11 million dollars to the US bank alone and 90 million Swiss. francs to a Swiss bank.

From Zinoviev - 80 million Swiss. francs to a Swiss bank.

From Uritsky - 85 million Swiss. francs to a Swiss bank.

From Dzerzhinsky - 80 million Swiss. francs.

From Ganetsky - 60 million Swiss. francs and 10 million US dollars.

From Lenin - 75 million Swiss. francs.

It seems that the "world revolution" would be more correct to call the "world financial revolution", the whole idea of which is to collect all the money in the world on the personal accounts of two dozen people. From all this, however, we draw the nasty conclusion that the Swiss Bank still looked from the point of view of the Bolsheviks much more reliable than the American banks. Even the late Uritsky continues to keep his money there. Doesn't it follow from this that we need to revise our financial policy in terms of its greater federalization?

The investigation got off to a good start. Margarita Garrison, an American correspondent for the Associated Press agency, was arrested in Moscow on charges of espionage, and

a little later - the American journalist Adolf Karm, who arrived in Moscow as a delegate to the Third Congress of the Comintern from the American Socialist Labor Party. Several more American citizens were captured. All of them were charged with the standard charge of collecting intelligence information of a military and political nature. The New York Times is an American newspaper, which means that the Americans must answer.

Despite the iron logic of such a statement, Lenin nevertheless had the idea that in this case the Cheka was not looking for a "leak", but simply in such a simple way trying to disrupt his upcoming negotiations with the American Senator Frens, an engineer Vanderbilt, whom Lenin, by the way, VChK help, mistakenly considered the billionaire Vanderbilt, and the businessman Hammer. In the brilliant head of the leader, the idea arose to sell the Russian subsoil, and he began to vigorously propagate his idea of concessions.

The Americans, who always did their best to rescue their citizens who were imprisoned abroad, talked with Lenin more about the release of Garrison and Karm than about the essence of the matter, although this "essence" was extremely interesting and fantastically profitable for them. It turned out that Marguerite Garrison was the sister of the governor of Maryland, and the negotiator, France, was a senator from that state. All this forced Lenin to take the investigation under his personal control and quickly make sure that the Chekists were driving "bullshit". The Americans were released, and it became clear to Lenin that the wanted "leak" came from the depths of the Cheka itself. Now, as a "leak", Shelekhes was being slipped to him.

Gold and power floated away from the hands of Ilyich. The party and its fighting detachment of the Cheka, flowing around Lenin, visibly split into two camps, grouping around two powerful figures - Trotsky and Stalin, who was gaining strength, who personified two opposite tendencies: to run away with booty and stay in order to build a socialist state, from which not yet been squeezed out. all possibilities. Opponents were united by only one thing: a sharp rejection of the NEP.

Lenin saw all this perfectly and made constant attempts, if not to reconcile, then at least to unite again the warring clans around him. But the Shelekhes case clearly unsettled the leader. He is nervous, demands that they send him the protocols of interrogations, but the Cheka is clearly in no hurry to follow the instructions of the leader.

Lenin loses patience and on August 19 sends the following message to Unshlikht:

"19. VIII.

Done secret.

Tov. Unshlikht!

I ask you to entrust to whom it is necessary to present to me:

1) accurate information about what the evidence is and

2) a copy of the interrogation or interrogations in the case of ... Shelekhes. I already wrote about it.

Put someone in sight so that they will not be late in the future.

With com. hello Lenin.

But the gold continues to flow in two ways: abroad and into the secret vaults of the Cheka. Both sides are doing everything possible to expose each other, organizing a leak to the Western press.

The New York Times, in its issue of August 23, 1921, writes: "Bank Kuhn, Leiba and K°,

subsidizing the coup in Russia in 1917 through its German subsidiaries, did not lose money from its grateful clients. In the first half of this year alone, the bank received from the Soviets gold in the amount of 102 million 290 thousand dollars. The leaders of the revolution continue to increase deposits in their US bank accounts. Thus, Trotsky's account in just two American banks has lately grown to \$80 million.

As for Lenin himself, he stubbornly continues to keep his "savings" in a Swiss bank, despite the higher interest per annum on our free continent."

In October 1921, Shelekhes was shot. The "poor jeweler" was judged by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Tribunal at the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, as if he were one of the leaders of the revolution or a classic of Marxism.

But Lenin is trying to continue the fight. On November 18, 1921, he sends an order to the Cheka, the Moscow Cheka and the Narkomfin: "In order to concentrate in one place all the valuables currently stored in various state institutions, I propose that, within three days from the time of receipt of this, all valuable items that are now at the disposal of the VChK.

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Nobody reacts. Moreover, Lenin stopped receiving information from the Gokhran, which was replaced by slogans such as "Gokhran - shock work." Say, Vladimir Ilyich, go about your NEP, but we no longer trust you. We also want to be part of it.

On December 2, 1921, Lenin sent his faithful Gorbunov on a secret mission to the Cheka to Menzhinsky himself. Gorbunov hands him a note from Lenin:

"Top secret.

Please send me a secret, through Comrade. Gorbunov, a report on the state of affairs in the Gokhran. Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

"Everything is going well in the Gokhran," Menzhinsky replies and, referring to business, escorts Gorbunov out.

The logic of actions tells Lenin that he can unite accomplices around himself in only one way - to raise them to a new mass robbery.

A terrible famine continued to rage in the country, engulfing vast areas of the Volga region and Ukraine. Approximately 20 million people, including children, were in danger of starvation. The government in the Kremlin did not provide them with practically any assistance, citing lack of money.

"We have no money!" Lenin never tired of repeating both from the stands and in private conversations with Alexei Maksimovich Gorky and American businessmen. There is no money, and hunger riots are mercilessly suppressed by mass executions. In June 1921, the hungry railway workers of Yekaterinoslav went on strike. The crowd of proletarian workers was shot down with machine-gun fire. 240 people were captured on the spot. Of them, 53 were immediately shot on the banks of the Dnieper and thrown into the water. The rest were demanded for reprisals by the All-Ukrainian Cheka in Kharkov, where the capital of Ukraine was then located. Parts of the special purpose break into the starving villages, shooting everyone without exception and

then drawing up documents that a "Socialist-Revolutionary-Menshevik conspiracy" took place in the village. Millions of homeless and hungry children roam the country in droves, having lost their parents during the Bolshevik meat grinder.

The famine is spreading, covering more and more territories with 35 million potential victims.

And at the elevators of Petrograd, Odessa and Nikolaev, ships of foreign companies are loaded with grain, taking grain abroad in exchange for gold. Lenin is probing the soil on foreign exchanges about the possibility of selling only one Russian forest for a billion gold rubles. American "concessionaires" find out with the leader the details of the purchase of Russian mineral resources. Even small details are being clarified: how much should Russian workers be paid in mines, mines and mines? Americans offer to pay one and a half dollars a day. Lenin is horrified. In no case! Not a cent! We will pay ourselves! You, gentlemen, do not worry. Americans feel some kind of catch. Where no money is taken, it clearly smells like some kind of fraud, And the country continues to die of hunger. Lenin's brilliant foresight of the "grain monopoly" yielded the most brilliant results. It creates the possibility of completely starving out the basis of the petty-bourgeois ideology—the peasantry. It's even more effective than shooting. Hunger-maddened crowds are storming the grain warehouses. Machine guns are fired from the towers without warning, shooting everyone without any mercy. In just a few years, this ingenious method will be repeated by Stalin, but with much greater efficiency.

The scope and consequences of the famine of the 1920s are, in some respects, even worse than the upcoming artificial famine of 1932-1933. However, there was a significant difference. If the famine of 1932-1933 was completely hidden from the world, then the "Leninist" famine, on the contrary, was advertised in every possible way in the Bolshevik press, which, emphasizing the complete helplessness of the government, appealed for humanitarian aid from the West. Although the party was not going to spend a penny of its fantastic wealth, its individual representatives, demonstrating low class consciousness, tried to achieve the opening of food warehouses and gold pantries to help the dying Russia. Lenin's old friend Vladimir Bonch-Bruевич, who never mastered the "Leninist science", tried to convince the Kremlin rulers to donate some part of the booty in favor of the people. If we are a state, he argued (what to take from him: the son of a tsarist dignitary, the brother of a tsarist general), then the confiscated property is now state property and, therefore, should and can be used for the people. He was patiently explained that the state has no money, and those values that he has in mind are the "gold of the party", belong to the party and only to the party, being a strategic weapon of the future struggle between labor and capital. No, he didn't understand, they wanted to imprison him so that he would become more understanding, but Lenin stood up for his old friend ("I myself decide who is the 'bourgeois'!"). Dismissed for "scientific work" ...

Gorky, the "petrel of the revolution" with clipped and plucked wings, made his way to Lenin, crying out for help to the starving. "We have no money to help the starving," Lenin snapped. "We inherited from the bourgeoisie ruin, need, impoverishment!" But he allowed Gorky to assemble a committee to help the starving from undercut intellectuals and ask for help from the West.

Of course, America was the first to respond, having already created by that time the Humanitarian Relief Administration (ARA) and providing assistance to post-war Europe. In December 1921, the United States Congress allocated 20 million to help starving Russia, and US citizens were called upon to donate personal funds to starving Russia. In total, \$45 million was transferred from the government and from private individuals to the ARA, headed by the future US President Hoover. Other international organizations have also joined the cause, strictly following through their representatives for

aid distribution, saved 22,700,000 people from starvation, spending a total of \$137 million.

The Chekists, in order to divert Lenin's attention from their own affairs, slipped tons of all kinds of "linden" to the leader of the world proletariat,[20] where it was stated that the ARA was a military spy organization that set itself the only task of overthrowing the Bolshevik system. "The American Red Cross Famine Relief Association based in Baranovich," Unshlikht reported to Lenin, "supplies bandits arriving from Soviet territory with uniforms, food and weapons and sends them to Ukraine."

The Pravda newspaper wrote with pleasure (04/23/1922) that the agents of the ARA set fire to the elevator in Nikolaev port.

In a lengthy report addressed to Lenin on September 6, 1921, Unshlikht wrote that "the director of the ARA in Soviet Russia is Colonel W. N. Haskel, his secretary is the former American consul in Petrograd, intelligence officer D. Lers, and his assistant is intelligence officer M. Philip". The purpose of their intelligence activities, in addition to collecting military and political information, is to "depict the vivid suffering endured by the Russian people." The Americans were prevented from working, they were not allowed into the most famine-stricken areas, and there is nothing to say about the "Gorky" Committee for Assistance to the Starving. Everyone was arrested and a case was organized, where members of the committee were accused of having links with foreign intelligence services, White Guard emigration, and even with the headquarters of the rebel Antonov. Only a sharp demarche of the US government and Hoover's personal intervention saved the members of the "Gorky" committee from execution, which was replaced by expulsion abroad, where Alexei Maksimovich himself had left in advance.

The memory of the ARA is preserved in the pages of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, which states that the ARA used its employees "for espionage and support of counter-revolutionary elements. The counter-revolutionary activities of the ARA evoked energetic protests from the working masses. That's how proud we are!

The fact that Lenin did not have the courage to bring the well-conceived operation "Hunger" to the end (only 6 million people died of starvation) once again confirmed the gloomy fears of his accomplices that Ilyich, as the leader of the world proletariat, was no longer fit. What was the surprise of everyone, both on the right and on the left, when Lenin again flashed his unfading genius. Seeing the complete inaction of the "Soviet government" in the fight against the epidemic of hunger, the Russian Orthodox Church, headed by Patriarch Tikhon, could not stand it.

Starting from 1917, when the "internationalists", seized by the gold rush, began to open the imperial tombs, royal tombs, cemetery crypts and even the mausoleums of the holy elders, relations between the church and the new government became openly hostile. From the first day Lenin began an open attack on the Orthodox Church, issuing a number of decrees depriving the church of the status of "state", on the confiscation of church and monastery lands, on the prohibition of the church of any other activity, except for the "exercise of worship."

However, for the time being, while there was an open armed struggle with the "whites", Lenin had to restrain both his impulses and his people. The Church enjoyed great prestige among the majority of the Russian people, and this authority could fall like a heavy weight on the oscillating scales of confrontation in the civil war. True, even then priests were shot, churches and cathedrals were robbed and burned, but all this was unsystematic, although Lenin did not forget the most important thing for a second. For more than 900 years of its existence, the church has accumulated untold wealth. Tsars and emperors, aristocrats and wealthy merchants donated huge sums and valuables to the church, dressed icons in gold and silver salaries, decorated with a sparkling scattering of precious stones. Sacred

The books were bound in gold bindings.

Precious church utensils, made by the most skillful jewelers of entire generations, were the pride of churches, laurels, monasteries and their parishioners.

The Church carried on a great deal of social work, building free hospitals, orphanages, almshouses, almshouses, schools, colleges, and much more.

Christian morality in pre-revolutionary Russia was not empty words: by the beginning of the 20th century, domestic murder had become such a rarity that if it happened in some small county town, all the capital's newspapers wrote about it with surprise.

The Church understood that in this situation she needed to behave quietly and imperceptibly, but she could not stand it, seeing that the "workers' and peasants' government" with the composure of Nero was looking at the starvation of the workers and peasants.

Patriarch Tikhon sent a letter to Lenin, where he offered to donate part of church valuables to buy bread to help the starving. Let's not talk about some naivety of the Patriarch, who believed that the government, even accepting this help, uses it for the needs of the starving.

Lenin became very excited. He took the Patriarch's letter as an outrageous challenge made by the church. In the perverted brain of the leader there was no room for understanding noble and sacrificial impulses. He assessed any action only from the point of view of merciless political fencing to death. The challenge was obvious. The government is inactive, and therefore the church, in order to "humiliate us, emphasize its influence," comes out with such proposals. It seems to control and reproach us. But it will not work, cunning priests! Will not work! We will go the other way!

Hastily gathering the Politburo, Lenin read out the message of the Patriarch and declared that the time had come to put an end to the churchmen. It is necessary to accuse the church of unwillingness to give up its wealth to help the starving, which forces the Soviet government to confiscate all church valuables.

The Politburo was delighted. Moreover, Lenin emphasized the goal of the upcoming event: to replenish the party fund with a huge amount of "several hundred million gold rubles (and, perhaps, several billion)." No one knew the exact amount, which created additional excitement, so necessary for decisive action.

While Patriarch Tikhon was waiting for a response from the Soviet government to his noble proposal. On February 23, 1922, Lenin signed a decree "On the seizure of church valuables in favor of the starving." This step delighted everyone who was already disillusioned with Ilyich, even Stalin. The work was "hellish".

There were about 80,000 Christian churches throughout the country, mostly Orthodox. Detachments of the GPU (as the Cheka was now called) rushed to the gates of churches and monasteries. Believers tried to protect precious shrines with their bodies. The attackers opened fire without any hesitation. Precious frames were torn off the icons, gold and silver utensils, including monstrances and chandeliers of the 15th-17th centuries, cast gold crosses of the time of Ivan the Terrible and the first Romanovs were put into boxes and bags. Precious stones were dug out, bindings from bibles were torn off, all gold and silver coins found were confiscated. Bonfires from ancient icons were burning, handwritten incunabula, Bibles of the 13th century were burning, altars were collapsing.

But this was only the beginning. Recovering from the shock caused by Lenin's decree, Patriarch Tikhon addressed an appeal to all "believing children of the Russian

Orthodox Church" (February 28): "From the point of view of the church, such an act is an act of sacrilege. We cannot approve the removal from churches, even if through voluntary donations, of consecrated objects, the use of which is not for liturgical purposes is prohibited by the canons of the universal church and is punished by it as sacrilege. The appeal of His Holiness the Patriarch was announced from the ambos of churches, passed from mouth to mouth, pasted on the walls of houses, calling on the people to resist. Across the country, real battles took place near the temples. But unarmed believers could not put up any organized resistance to the armed to the teeth "Chonovites". In many places, the crowd was simply dispersed with machine guns, and the arrested were shot on the same day.

Realizing, however, how great is the authority of the church among ordinary Russian people and being afraid of a nationwide uprising, the authorities, as always, resorted to hypocritical and false appeals, appealing to the "people" and the "working masses." On March 28, 1922, a government message was published: "The idea of any kind of persecution against believers and against the church is alien to the government ... Values \u200b\u200bare created by the labor of the people and belong to the people. The performance of religious rites will not suffer any damage from the replacement of precious objects with other, simpler ones. With jewelry, it is possible to buy enough bread, seeds, working livestock and tools to save not only the life, but also the economy of the peasants of the Volga region and all other starving places of the Soviet Federation ... Only a clique of church princes who are accustomed to luxury, gold, silks and precious stones , does not want to give these treasures to the work of saving millions of perishing people. In their greedy striving to keep valuables in their hands at any cost, the ecclesiastical privileged clique does not stop at criminal conspiracies and the provocation of open rebellions. Maintaining as before full attention and tolerance towards the faithful, the Soviet government will not tolerate, however, a single hour for the privileged rulers of the church, dressed in silks and diamonds, to create a special state of church princes in the state of workers and peasants.

The published appeal, trying to split the church and the masses of believers, contained unequivocal threats against the leadership of the Orthodox Church, as usual, being only an echo of secret decisions already taken in the Kremlin.

Lenin was in shock. His former energy and fighting enthusiasm returned. His eyes shone, as in the days of the brilliant slogan he had thrown out - "Rob the loot!".

On March 19, 1922, he sent a secret directive letter to the members of the Politburo, the leadership of the GPU, the People's Commissariat of Justice and the Revolutionary Tribunal, who were preparing for a meeting on optimizing and coordinating the actions of various services in the implementation of the Decree on the seizure of church property:

"At this conference," Vladimir Ilyich points out, "to pass a secret decision of the congress that the seizure of valuables, especially the richest laurels, monasteries and churches, should be carried out with ruthless determination, without stopping at anything and in the shortest possible time. . The greater the number of representatives of the reactionary bourgeoisie and the reactionary clergy, therefore, we manage to shoot, the better. It is precisely now that this public must be taught a lesson so that for several decades they will not even dare to think about any resistance. 19. III. 1922 Prev. Council of People's Commissars

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

Never before, even in the times of ancient despotisms, did the head of state dare to put his signature on documents of this kind. The decisiveness of Lenin, who in the vast majority of cases personally sanctioned all the crimes of his regime, was the envy of both Stalin and Hitler. Stalin always spoke with admiration of Lenin's decisiveness, clearly emphasizing his own indecisiveness: he himself was afraid

put his signature even on the order to blow up the bridges of Leningrad and enterprises in Moscow, although this was dictated by military necessity.

The decisiveness of the leader, who takes responsibility for the crimes of his subordinates with his signature, who have the right to refer to the received order, could not but arouse their respect with a share of admiration. In this case, everyone was satisfied: both those who, grouping around Trotsky, were thinking about fleeing the country and could round off their multi-million dollar accounts in Western banks with this action, and those who, grouping around Stalin, who was in power, intended to stay, so that, living comfortably in conquered Russia, turn it into a base for their upcoming adventures, the ideology of robbery into a state religion, and Lenin himself into a pagan idol of a new religion. A new religion always involves the destruction of the old.

The churches were plundered, as Lenin had ordered, "with ruthless determination" and "in the shortest possible time." 40,000 priests, deacons, and monks were shot, as well as about 100,000 believers who were members of the church "twenties" and communities. The net profit amounted to two and a half billion gold rubles (according to a very modest estimate of timid historians of the era of perestroika and glasnost). According to Western experts, this figure should be increased three times. Still, there were a lot of temples and monasteries, and they existed, on average, for 300 years. I remember that the ARA, having spent 137 million dollars, fed and saved more than 20 million doomed from death. Soviet statistics indicate that in 1922-1923 grain was purchased abroad for 1 (one) million rubles, then for seeds. As for the purchases of livestock and agricultural implements, there were none at all.

Where did these untold treasures go? After all, if they were divided equally, as promised, only them, then even the ruined Russia could quickly turn into something rich and flourishing, like Kuwait. But nothing of the kind, of course, happened, because the goal was just the opposite.

Nikolai Bukharin, the most insignificant and cowardly of the Bolshevik leaders, and therefore most sincerely admired the prowess of the leader of the revolution, recalled these heroic days with delight: not giving a shish of them to the hungry; at the vocational school we built our "church" with the help of Orthodox priests, and the gates of hell will certainly not overcome it; we have replaced the tripe of the Filaret catechism with the "ABC of Communism", dear to my heart, the law of God with a political literacy, we have torn crosses and amulets from the children, instead of icons we have hung "leaders" and we will try for Pakhom and the "lower classes" to open the relics of Ilyich under communist sauce ... Stupid country!

In May 1922, Patriarch Tikhon was arrested along with all members of the Holy Synod. 32 metropolitans and archbishops were shot. But under the official word "execution" often hid a brutal sophisticated murder.

Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev was mutilated, castrated, shot dead and thrown naked to be mocked; St. Petersburg Metropolitan Veniamin, who was supposed to replace the patriarch in the event of his death, was turned into an ice column with cold water in the cold, and then drowned; Bishop Germogen of Tobolsk, who at one time voluntarily went into exile with the tsar, was tied alive to the wheel of a steamboat and worn out by the blades. Archbishop Andronik of Perm, a famous missionary in the past in Japan, was buried alive in the ground. Archbishop Vasily of Chernigov was crucified and burned.

"It is now necessary to teach this public a lesson in such a way that for several decades they will not even dare to think about any resistance. Lenin.

"The fever on the world exchanges, caused by a sharp drop in gold prices, is associated by experts with the arrival of large quantities of this metal from Russia on the world market. The Bolshevik Party now ruling in this unfortunate country may well be called the "Yellow Devil Party," wrote the British newspaper The Guardian in March 1923. The Time newspaper echoed it: "The purchase by leftist socialists of two six-story houses in downtown London at an auction price of £6 million per house and the erection of a grandiose monument to Karl Marx at his burial site for four million pounds indicate that the Bolsheviks in Moscow has where to spend the money confiscated from the church supposedly to help the starving. We are only now beginning to understand what a rich country the destroyed Russia was."

Central Asia after the invasion of the Mongols, Europe after the Thirty Years' War, France after a 10-year plague epidemic - all this, even taken together, cannot be compared with what Russia was like after seven incomplete years of Lenin's rule. The vast majority of Russian educated society disappeared, perished or fled the country in horror.

Masses of millions of people, knocked out of their homes by terror, hostilities and famine, scattered throughout the country. The pre-revolutionary small proletariat was completely destroyed. The most advanced agrarians, leading their farms at the level of European standards, were either killed or fled to no one knows where. The economy collapsed. The once mightiest river fleet in the world has perished. The pride of Russia - its railways - were destroyed, the rolling stock was actually destroyed. Ruined churches rose among the ashes as monuments to a lost civilization.

Russia has become a field littered only with dead bones: there is neither protest nor indignation. Everything is tired, everything is humbled and depressed. And most importantly, everything was stolen and plundered. From the inside-out imperial tombs to the inside-out pockets of all the living and the dead. The great scam of all ages under the code name "World Revolution" is almost over. There is no figure that can to some extent sum up the monetary result of this "event". All the national wealth of a huge and rich country, which was called Russia, went into one giant ingot of the "GOLD OF THE PARTY". However, this was not the end. Ahead of a black cloud was an even more terrible future.

In December 1922, an unpleasant surprise happened. The Swiss bank announced to Lenin's guarantor Rothstein that the money of the fixed capital of the company he represented (and Rothstein represented the Bolshevik Party), at the direction of the owners (or persons authorized by them), who knew a complex combination of mottos and ciphers, was transferred to three separate accounts with new mottos and cipher combinations. Money in personal accounts remained untouched. Old Parvus again demonstrated to Lenin that no matter, especially financial matters, tolerates dilettantism. Lenin had a stroke.

Having hardly recovered from it, Lenin, despite the protests of doctors and relatives, orders that he be taken to the Kremlin, where he is convinced that all his worst fears were confirmed. The office was thoroughly searched. A safe was opened, from which all "arch-secret" documents were seized, including bank guarantees, check books and a whole collection of foreign passports.

Faithful Gorbunov also disappeared...

The war-internationalists guarded around the clock around the luxurious two-story mansion, the former country palace of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, in Gorki. On a frosty Christmas night in 1923, they heard a terrible howl that seemed to come from under the house. It was deep night, the full moon shone in the sky. Clicking

the gates of their tested Austrian carbines, the sentries began to converge on the source of the howl, deciding that wolves had approached the mansion from the forest. But there were no wolves. Lenin, dressed in a quilted jacket and felt boots, sat in a wheelchair on the glazed veranda of the first floor. Raising his haggard face to the moon, he howled wildly and long. The evil spirit called out to its brethren in space, asking for freedom. He did his job...

In the bitter cold of January 1924, workers dug a foundation pit for a temporary mausoleum with spades and crowbars. A crowbar was broken through a sewer pipe, but the hole, seized by frost, was not noticed. In the first thaw, the pipe burst, flooding the mausoleum with its contents. Upon learning of this, Patriarch Tikhon, who was languishing under house arrest, mournfully remarked: "According to relics and oil."

Part 2. Occupation

Gloomily reviewing the Lenin legacy he had inherited, Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin had every reason to be dissatisfied. First, like no one else, he felt robbed. In fact, he is a member of the Central Committee, a member of the very first Leninist government, who did, one might say, the dirtiest work, wandering around the fronts of the civil war, risking every minute to be shot, raised on bayonets, torn to shreds, was deceived.

It turns out that while he, drowning knee-deep in blood, typhoid shit and sorting out along the way in the impenetrable mud of new Byzantine intrigues, sent echelons with gold and bread (which was sometimes more expensive than gold) to Moscow from all over the country, all this was plundered behind his back, thrown overboard, transferred to personal accounts, to the accounts of active joint-stock companies and acquired banks. It's not like he didn't know anything about it. I knew, of course. But he had no idea of the true scope, just as he had no idea that his share (his rightful share!) would be so ridiculously small. Pushed aside from the "Kremlin kitchen" and from the Comintern to the post of people's commissar of nationalities and chairman of the fake Rabkrin, Stalin did not immediately begin to understand what was happening in Russia conquered by the Bolsheviks. However, it only seemed to him that he understood something, because every day, presenting him with new surprises, convinced him that it was very difficult to understand something, if not simply impossible.

The civil war was over, and millions of eyes looked at Lenin with a dumb question: when will we share the "loot", as agreed, equally? Lenin, effectively turning out his empty pockets, made it clear that there was nothing to share - the damned bourgeois fled and took everything with them to the last penny. Even the nails were pulled out of the walls and all the salt was taken out by steamers. And there is nothing else to say. Many, looking around, believed. Many do not, suspecting a global deception. Stalin believed because he knew that the treasury was as empty as a lunar crater. I guessed that the money was not in the treasury. Where is it? This question also interested him. But he was no less interested in the question: what to do next? As it turned out, no one, including Lenin, had any clear plans in this regard and, most surprisingly, no one seriously thought about it. The deed was done, and the time has come to disappear, dissolve, change nicknames and live, not sad, under the sound of the Atlantic or Pacific surf. It was the point of view of those who knew how to grab well. And there were thirty of them. And what about the rest?

They announced the NEP to take a breath and think. And then Lenin suddenly turned from the leader of the international proletariat into a Russian great power and began to dream not of a world revolution, but of the restoration of the Russian Empire within the borders of 1914. At first

they did not believe it, and the recordings of his speeches were secretly sent for a psychiatric examination - was the leader crazy? They answered that it looks like: too emotional and impulsive in statements, phrases break off, there are contradictions all around, there is no consistent meaning. But there was a point. And Stalin immediately understood him. The world revolution did not work out, and therefore, as Ilyich prophesied, "we perished." And in order not to perish, it is necessary to build a most powerful state (which, according to Lenin's theory, should have already died out) and it is with this most powerful state, as an instrument, to carry out the world revolution. Nice business! And where to get the money for all this, if your team, Vladimir Ilyich, stuffed the entire national treasure of the richest country into their own pockets, which turned out to be bottomless. If your NEP is corrupting the country, turning it from the depot of the world revolution into a huge "flea market"! If your vaunted guard of the "old Bolsheviks" is mired in luxury and is already decidedly not interested in anything, except for real estate prices and stocks in capital countries, lovingly examining foreign passports issued to each "and a dozen different surnames!

Gradually concentrating power in his own hands, Stalin was surprised to notice that no one, in fact, interfered with him. Nobody thought about the future, everyone was happy with the present. Only the Cheka, renamed the GPU, worked lazily, without the former enthusiasm, shooting two hundred people a day. The Chekists also felt deceived. Where are those innumerable treasures that they, with smoking Mausers in their hands, brought to the center for five years, hoping for their share, equal with everyone else? And they got a muzzle ... Stalin perfectly used this circumstance, seizing control of the secret police, realizing that it was simply impossible to think of any other executive authority.

What Lenin lovingly called "Bolsheviks" has degenerated into no one knows what. And how quickly - in just six incomplete years!

It cannot be said that Lenin did not see all this and did not understand it at all.

How did you understand! But upset opponents. Money can not buy happiness! Where that has gone - the party knows. And the general fermentation is going on, because they began to shoot a little. We must use firing squads more widely, comrades! Embraced by the idea of creating the USSR, Lenin most of all thinks about the legal basis of the future state of "workers and peasants." It would be the stronger, he sincerely believed, the wider the use of executions.

At the height of the NEP, in the middle of 1922, Lenin, having gathered his last strength, again tries to regain his former authority and rally his supporters around him, raising them to a new robbery in order to continue to hold such sweet reins of unlimited power in his weakening hands. This somehow no longer fits with the dreams of a powerful socialist state, but the leader's inconsistency has even ceased to irritate, but has become the subject of jokes. Yes, besides, who else to rob? The country has already been turned into a dead desert. But this only seems to the performers, and a genius always looks ahead and sees much better than his subjects. Studying the draft of the future criminal code of the great socialist power, presented to him by officials fattened by the NEP, for the last time in his life Vladimir Ilyich felt a powerful surge of creative forces and shredded the draft with a red pencil.

What drooling! Where is the revolutionary fervor?!

"Tov. Kursky," Lenin writes in irritation to his people's commissar of justice, "in my opinion, it is necessary to expand the use of shooting ... to all types of activity of the Mensheviks, S.-R. and so on.; to find a formulation linking these deeds with the international bourgeoisie and its struggle against us (bribery of the press and agencies, preparations for war, etc.). Please return it immediately with your feedback. Lenin. May 15, 1922". No! Kursky will not understand. He will also decide that the matter concerns only the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries. He needs to be explained in more detail.

A day later, on May 17, 1922, Lenin sent a new letter to Kursky:

Comrade Kursky!.. I am sending you a draft of an additional paragraph of the Criminal Code. A rough sketch, which, of course, needs all sorts of finishing and alteration. The main idea, I hope, is clear, despite all the shortcomings of the chernyak: to openly expose a principled and politically truthful (and not just legally narrow) position that motivates the essence and justification of terror, its necessity, its limits.

The Court must not eliminate terror; to promise this would be self-deception or deceit, but to substantiate and legitimize it on principle, clearly, without falsehood and without embellishment. It is necessary to formulate as broadly as possible, because only a revolutionary sense of justice and a revolutionary conscience will set the conditions for applying in practice, more or less broad.

With communist greetings, Lenin."

Further, Lenin, a lawyer by training, sends three versions of a new article of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR written in his own hand.

Option 1:

Propaganda, or agitation, or participation in an organization, or assistance to organizations acting (propaganda and agitation) in the direction of helping that part of the international bourgeoisie that does not recognize the equality of the communist property system that is replacing capitalism and seeks its violent overthrow, whether by intervention, or blockade, or espionage, or financing of the press, etc. by means, is punishable by capital punishment, with the replacement, in case of extenuating circumstances, by imprisonment or expulsion abroad.

Option 2:

a) Propaganda or agitation objectively assisting that part of the international bourgeoisie which: ... etc. to the end.

b) The same punishment shall be imposed on those guilty of participating in organizations or assisting organizations or persons engaged in activities of the above nature (whose activities are of the above nature).

As always, Lenin's pen, overtaking the leader's thoughts, is trying to capture the population of the conquered country with a shooting noose as widely as possible, which, in its eternal naivete, accepted the new economic policy of the Bolsheviks as something serious and durable, while it was another trap set by the occupation authorities. Doubting that Kursky would get it right, Lenin adds;

Option 2b:

"contributing or able to contribute", and boldly circles this option in ink. Now everything seems to be correct. All the people of the future state were brought under the execution article at the discretion of the authorities.

The next day, May 18, 1922, at a special meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RCP (b), a decision was made to increase approximately three times the cash salaries of GPU employees and transfer them to special rations of a special closed food distribution network. At the same time, explaining the essence of the new articles of the criminal code under execution, the secret directives of the following content descend into the GPU with a Lenin visa:

"... The OGPU is currently forced to display a certain

passivity. But it must be clear to every employee of the GPU that such a situation can only be temporary. Therefore, the OGPU must now make every effort to identify and register our enemies in order to inflict a crushing blow on them when the time comes.

What a crushing blow to the enemy means on the part of the OGPU, it would seem that there was no need to explain to anyone. On December 17, 1922, the "legendary" Chekist Peters publishes an article in Izvestia, where, calling for high vigilance, he notes:

"We must not forget, even under the conditions of the New Economic Policy, that we are surrounded on all sides by the worst enemies." But who are these worst enemies, who must be registered and identified by name, so that, "when the time comes", to destroy everyone without exception, having previously been robbed to the skin again? A secret circular dated February 1923 lists in detail those doomed to total physical extermination in the very near future:

"Political parties and organizations

1. All former members of pre-revolutionary political parties.
2. All former members/monarchist unions and organizations.
3. All former members of the Union of Independent Farmers, as well as members of the Union of Independent Grain Growers during the period of the Central Rada in Ukraine.
4. All former representatives of the old aristocracy and nobility.
5. All former members of youth organizations (Boy Scouts and others).
6. All nationalists of any shades.

Employees of the royal institutions

1. All employees of the former Ministry of Internal Affairs; all employees of the Okhrana, police and gendarmerie, all secret agents of the Okhrana and the police, all ranks of the border guards, etc.
2. All employees of the former Ministry of Justice: all members of district courts, judges, prosecutors of all ranks, magistrates, judicial investigators, bailiffs, heads of village courts, etc.
3. Without exception, officers and non-commissioned officers of the tsarist armies and navy.

Secret enemies of the Soviet regime

1. All officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the White Army, irregular White Guard formations, Petliura formations, various rebel units and gangs who actively fought against Soviet power.

Persons amnestied by the Soviet authorities are no exception.

2. All civilian employees of the central and local bodies and departments of the White Guard governments, the army of the Central Rada, the Hetman's Administration, etc.
3. All religious leaders: bishops, priests of the Orthodox and Catholic churches, rabbis, deacons, monks, choirmasters, church elders, etc.
4. All former merchants, owners of shops and shops, as well as "Nepmen".

5. All former landowners, large tenants, rich peasants who used hired labor in the past. All former owners of industrial enterprises and workshops.
6. All persons whose close relatives are in an illegal position or continue armed resistance to the Soviet regime in the ranks of anti-Soviet gangs.
7. All foreigners regardless of nationality.
8. All persons who have relatives and acquaintances abroad.
9. All members of religious sects and communities (especially Baptists).
10. All scientists and specialists of the old school, especially those whose political orientation has not been clarified to this day.
11. All persons previously suspected or convicted of smuggling, espionage, etc."

It is these documents, and not the pitiful note recommending not to elect Stalin as "general secretary", that must be considered Lenin's real political testament. If you have already decided to stay and build the Union of Socialist States, then here is the only method by which you can build this Union. The thousand-year-old Russian Empire, suffering from the frivolous militancy that is so characteristic of all aged empires, could not withstand the loads and unforeseen overloads voluntarily assumed, collapsed and fell apart. It is impossible to reanimate it, but it can be finally finished off and turned into a controlled corpse, bound by steel hoops of continuous terror and galvanized with the help of a simple set of pseudo-Marxist spells, cast around the clock from birth to death of each individual who, for some reason, managed to avoid destruction.

The energy of a controlled corpse can be directed to anything: to turn the rivers back, to conquer the world, to electrify the whole country. At the same time, no money will be needed, since everyone will work for a "ration", which can be adjusted accordingly depending on the volume and quality of the work performed and the tasks performed. This makes it possible to create huge labor armies and countless hordes of "proletarian battalions" that will simply flood Europe and the whole world, ensuring the victory of socialism on a world scale. All this is simple and clear.

But to implement such a scheme, a huge army of "managers" will be needed, and practice has already shown how quickly this "army", decomposing from luxury, ceases to do anything at all, letting everything take its course, without any resistance sinking deeper and deeper into the sweet swamp corruption. Consequently, it is necessary to create a new army of "managers", a kind of headquarters of the "occupation administration", protected from work by an impenetrable veil of secrecy, an insurmountable wall of personal privileges, but answering with their heads for their actions, words and even thoughts before the leader. But all this also requires money, and a lot of it. Where are they?

Ever since 1922, Stalin has been trying to investigate ways of leaving Russia for the west of the huge sums that once constituted Russia's national treasure. But the apparatus of the former Cheka is not yet in his hands. The investigation is carried out secretly and extremely carefully, without actually bringing any results. Found ends of gold threads quickly break off in the fantastic labyrinths of international banks. If it is possible to find a channel that once sucked in Russian gold, then the channel that threw this gold onto the world market can no longer be found. And there are no people who could understand all the movements of many thousands of banking tentacles that embraced the whole world with their arms. While the drum of the world proletarian revolution was being beaten in Moscow, a world financial revolution took place quietly and imperceptibly, preparing the world hegemony of that country or group of countries that

make more intelligent use of the political and economic opportunities.

Did those who seized power in Russia in October 1917 know about this?

Stalin was among them, but he did not know anything, although in the guts of the old criminal he felt something was wrong. The absence of the most elementary political and economic education did not give him the opportunity to conduct at least a superficial analysis of what was happening. Yes, and there was no time. And the rest? Did you know or not? What did Lenin himself know? Most likely, no more than the rest, becoming a victim of those who deftly played on his morbid fantasies, Lenin, and none of his inner circle, was never frank with Stalin. Contemptuous glances and condescending smirks were all he got from them. It is also good that, with incredible efforts and risk, it was possible to relocate and hide part of the Gokhran's valuables, while using sharp contradictions at the top of the GPU. But the GPU is an organization that cannot be trusted. Will the GPU find what is hidden? This is another question.

The death of Lenin untied his hands. What Ilyich took with him to the grave, let him remain on his conscience. But we'll deal with his closest accomplices. It took place in a deadly tangle of Kremlin intrigues, where it was impossible to think of anything even for half a day. It seemed that the powerful rivals from the old Bolshevik guard would wipe out the "half-educated seminarian," as Trotsky used to say, into the dust, so much so that no one would remember him. Theoretically, this is how it should have happened, but in practice it turned out that all of them were no longer fighters. They have not only lost the habit of wrestling, but have even unlearned how to work. And they did not want to stay in Russia, and they were afraid to go to Europe. Not the Europe that they knew before the First World War, not the same at all. It would be hard for them there with the habits acquired over the seven years of Russian lawlessness. Only Trotsky still showed some firmness. Decided to leave. Tired of empty discussions: who should be destroyed in the first place, and who - then. Should the fighters of the labor armies be paid something or just kept on rations? According to Lenin's plan, such a long and bloody work was ahead that it was breathtaking, but there was no more strength. It is better to live in peace in the West, spending from the heart the millions of dollars stolen.

Stalin only rejoiced at such sentiments of potentially the most dangerous rival. They arranged for him to be deported abroad for evading the general line of the party and with pleasure they released him along with the entire archive.

Let him quietly and calmly work on the theory of permanent revolution. But they didn't take their eyes off him. A tagged atom can and will lead to traces of stolen jewels. And when they realized that it would not lead, they slammed it like a fly.

By the time Trotsky was expelled, OGPU chief Genrikh Yagoda had already presented Iosif Vissarionovich with the numbers of personal accounts and the amounts on these accounts of all those who warmed their hands on an unprecedented robbery in history called the Great October Socialist Revolution. Only Yagoda did not name the number of his own account, naively believing that Comrade Stalin had it as the only source of information. Yagoda would name him later, but it would be too late. Stalin will squeeze everything out of them to the last cent. Spitting out the blood of broken lungs, spitting out broken teeth, all of them, before he gets a bullet in the back of the head, will "voluntarily" transfer money from Western banks to Moscow.

Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin, Menzhinsky, Ganetsky, Unshlikht, Boki—you can't count them all, but Stalin didn't forget anyone. Even Lenin. He personally explained to Nadezhda Konstantinovna what awaits her if the money of the leader of the world proletariat is not taken out of a Swiss bank. Tomorrow, everyone will forget that she was Lenin's wife and is his widow, and they will consider her a widow

Zemlyachka - the same Zemlyachka who, with Belaya Kun, took out gold from Sevastopol.

Nadezhda Konstantinovna broke down, she gave up everything. But the fellow countryman is well done. She did everything voluntarily, and she reminded me of Bela Kun. Oh, how he did not want to give money! They beat me for three days, but they knocked out everything to the last penny, and then they shot me. With all the "internationalists" who are in the illusion of complete impunity, they quickly sorted it out without ceremony. They also got those who thought to sit out abroad, spending on themselves the money intended for the world revolution. Only a few Americans managed to escape, but no one heard about them afterwards.

Money flocked to Moscow, but, alas, only from personal accounts. And it was a drop in the ocean. There were few. Much more was needed for Stalin's great plans to build a new empire. The OGPU and its successor, the NKVD, scoured the world in search of countless treasures, called by Lenin the "Gold of the Party." The Gestapo also searched for the "Gold of the Party", knocking out the soul from the arrested bankers. The soul was beaten out, but no gold was found. Where does it go? What happened? It is difficult to say for sure, but a number of researchers believe that it was the "gold of the party" that brought the United States out of the deepest economic crisis of the 1920s, ensuring the economic boom of the subsequent years of President Roosevelt's New Deal. No one has yet written the financial history of the world, since financial secrets, unlike state and military secrets, are not revealed in the course of history, but become even more impenetrable ...

The methods by which Comrade Stalin built his state on the ashes of destroyed Russia are well known. It seemed that there was no crime that the "leader of all peoples" would not be capable of. Millions and millions were shot and turned into camp dust. Pedantic and consistent fulfillment of all Lenin's precepts. It is enough to look once again at the list of the doomed to see how Joseph Vissarionovich was a faithful student of Lenin, following the spirit and letter of his teacher's precepts and not allowing himself, in essence, any improvisations and gag. He was weak in the theory of socialism and was aware of it. Therefore, by the beginning of the 40s, if any of the categories of the population indicated in the list was still alive, it was only behind barbed wire.

One can talk endlessly about the bloody deeds of Stalin, but one must give him his due. Unlike Lenin, who only knew how to destroy, and life showed that the leader of the world proletariat did not know and did not know how to constructive work, was burdened by it and died without creating anything, Comrade Stalin directed all his energy just to creation. He did not destroy the state, but created it. And, therefore, he was interested in the influx of values into the country, and not vice versa. First of all, he created the communist party of the Bolsheviks or the CPSU (b), since the party that Lenin created did not suit Stalin at all. A noisy, shaggy-bearded gang in leather jackets, greedy and always arguing with the leadership, connected by countless threads with no less obscure foreign organizations, constantly dreaming of moving the center of the world revolution from such an uncultured and dirty place as Moscow, somewhere to Berlin or Paris, where they, under one pretext or another, rode two or three times a year - such a party could destroy and rob, but they could not build anything serious - even a concentration camp - could not. And therefore she had to leave the stage and leave quickly, leaving only a piece of her name for the new party, which Comrade Stalin thought of creating like the Order of the Sword, but with much stricter discipline.

The quick departure of one party and its replacement by another could and did come about in the only possible way: Lenin's "guard" flew into oblivion with lightning speed through the chimney of the crematorium, finally telling the whole truth about itself at open Moscow trials, demonstrating to the whole world their high integrity and fighting qualities. The places of the departed were taken by new people specially and carefully selected by Stalin. Stalin began the work of putting together his order elite during the life of Lenin,

heading the secretariat of the Central Committee. If in 1924 there were about 3,500 posts in the Stalinist card file, the filling of which was to be carried out through the Central Committee, and about 1,500 posts filled by departments with the notification of the Central Committee's Executive Distribution Department, then in 1925 there were already about 25 thousand of such posts, representing a paid, liberated party apparatus: one liberated party organizer for every forty communists. In the same 1924, the Uchraspred merged with the Organizing Instructor Department of the Central Committee, forming the Orgraspredotdel, which actually became the main department in the apparatus of the Central Committee. This new department, at the head of which Stalin put Kaganovich, began to form not only the party, but also the state nomenclature, making 8761 appointments from the end of 1925 to 1927. In 1930, the Orgraspred was again divided into two departments: the Organizing Instructor Department, which dealt with appointments and movements in the party apparatus, and the Appointment Department with a number of sectors (heavy industry, light industry, transport, agriculture, Soviet institutions, foreign personnel, etc.), which was in charge of questions formation of the nomenclature in the apparatus of the empire being created.

If Lenin's reference book was Gustav Le Bon's monograph "The Psychology of the Crowd", which the leader of the world proletariat scribbled all over with his notes and exclamation marks, then Stalin was no longer interested in the crowd, dividing his interests between Niccolò Machiavelli's classic study "The Sovereign" and Admiral Mahan's fundamental work "Domination on the sea".

The fascination with precisely these books already ruined Kaiser Wilhelm and Emperor Nicholas, but developed in them the ability to think in military categories, which, apparently, Stalin also sought, when he first used the term "command of the party." "In our party," the leader of all peoples pointed out, "if we mean its leading strata, there are about 3-4 thousand top leaders. This, I would say, is the generals of our party. Next come 30-40 thousand middle managers. This is our party officers. Next come about 100-150 thousand of the lower party commanding staff. This, so to speak, is our party non-commissioned officer."

The military-hierarchical thinking of the future Generalissimo permeated from top to bottom the entire process of creating a new nomenklatura, bound by iron discipline and ready for anything with one movement of the eyebrows or mustaches of their leader. From the Leninist "guard" of the new elite, if anything remains, then only complete contempt for the people and their interests, but on the other hand, qualities appeared that, whatever one may say, should be recognized as positive. If the Leninist "guard" was most interested in matters of personal enrichment, and she was engaged in robbing the country, demonstrating exceptional lawlessness and not bearing, in essence, any responsibility either before the law (which simply did not exist) or before the leader (who simply encouraged such behavior), then the Stalinist nomenklatura was immediately placed in a completely different framework. Raised by a well-thought-out system of privileges to a standard of living unthinkable for the people, who were turned by Lenin's robberies into a beggarly proletariat, having virtually unlimited power over this people, the Stalinist elite was well aware of their own insignificance, because at any moment everyone - from the secretary of a provincial district committee to a member of the Politburo, General commissar of state security or marshal - could be shot right in the office, stuffed with boots in the basement of the NKVD or turned into a "rooster" on one of the countless islands of the Gulag. Understanding such things according to a simple scheme "today is alive, tomorrow - not" greatly limited the appetites of the nomenklatura, minimizing corruption and greed, directing energy to the needs of the state and the party. The concepts of "state" and "party" meant, again, the nomenklatura, which felt exactly that way, which is what Iosif Vissarionovich ultimately sought.

The hardening of the nomenklatura began in the era of the terrible famine generated by collectivization. Around the district committees of the party, where there were special canteens, peasants dying of hunger and swollen children screaming from unbearable hunger gathered. Entrances to

the district committees, of course, were guarded around the clock by the militia and GPU soldiers, but through the open windows of the dining room smells rushed, driving people dying of hunger crazy. In these canteens, at exceptionally low, almost symbolic prices, white bread, meat, poultry, exotic fruits and various delicacies were sold, the very names of which the people have forgotten since 1917. Even the attendants of these canteens relied on the so-called "Mikoyanovsky ration", containing twenty items of various products.

And around these spetsoases of luxury, hunger and death raged.

At first, many workers of the party apparatus could not stand it and from the funds of the district committee canteens they began to feed the dying people who gathered at the windows of the special canteens, mainly, of course, children. Such "soft-bodied" people were immediately removed from their posts, and they disappeared no one knows where, but from the nomenklatura forever. From the heights of the Central Committee to the level of the district committees, a top secret instruction was lowered, which said: "The worst thing is if you suddenly feel pity and lose firmness. You must learn to eat even when everyone around you is starving. Otherwise, there will be no one to return the harvest to the country. Do not give in to feelings and think only of yourself. However, such instructions should be understood correctly. But not everyone was able to do it. In the district and regional centers, at the height of the famine, local party secretaries and other nomenclature figures began to throw open orgies with fountains of champagne and other old merchant jokes like: who in one sitting will eat a one-year-old lamb stuffed with quails. Such, however, without much fuss, were arrested and shot for the edification of others.

Those who were not shot immediately for this were remembered for these orgies in 1937 and subsequent years.

The nomenklatura, brought up in a similar spirit, although aware of its potentially limitless possibilities, but, clenching its teeth, tried to stay within the limits established by Stalin. There were almost no exceptions. Kalinin's wife, due to the inertia of Lenin's lawlessness, took from the Gokhran a sable fur coat that belonged to the executed empress, and as a result, she got the opportunity to think carefully about her act during the long years spent in prison. Molotov's wife believed that she had the right to take the wedding crown of Catherine II from Gokhran and present it to the wife of the American ambassador, but she also ended up in prison. Powerful husbands, who are at the very top of the party-state elite, could not help their wives in any way, the whole trouble of which is not so much in their greed, but in a misunderstanding of the situation. Everything that they considered their legitimate trophies, Stalin considered to belong to the state, and it gradually became clear to each member of the nomenklatura what he was entitled to in accordance with his status, beyond which there was already a mortal risk.

Even the all-powerful Lavrenty Beria, who was hunting for girls right on the Moscow streets, did not suspect that a criminal case had already been opened against him, all his victims were being recorded, and in the end, if he managed to present anything to the arrested chief of the secret police, then it was already a ready case for numerous episodes rape. For which they were shot. And although this happened after the death of Stalin, the matter was clearly ready during the life of the Generalissimo.

Lenin once, in a fit of inspiration, said: "All our plans are shit!

The main thing is the selection of personnel! - Apparently, the leader of the world proletariat, considering in the last years of his life the possibility of building a socialist state, also well understood that with the cadres that surrounded him, nothing could be built. And there was no one to rob. Perhaps the Nepmen, but they are not yet fat enough to be of interest to the insatiable Leninist "guard". Only Stalin was able to correctly understand all the brilliant ideas of Ilyich, brilliantly throughout his

thirty years of rule using Lenin's legacy as a block for his ax.

But if you think about it, what did Lenin leave to him, besides the methodology for building the world's first socialist state and vague prophecies about the inevitability of wars in the era of imperialism - the constant detonator of the world proletarian war? An empty treasury, a disorganized and completely incompetent army, a split, decomposed and degrading party before our eyes, a devastated, plundered and crucified country with a dark, downtrodden, declassed and, perhaps most importantly, illiterate population, which even then had the very word "socialism" was associated with a bullet in the back of the head. The industry destroyed to the ground, the financial system brought into complete chaos, transport paralyzed, the skilled labor force almost completely destroyed and the intelligentsia partly destroyed, partly scattered around the world. Dead factory chimneys, rusted, icy locomotives, abandoned, half-sunken ships, legions of vagabonds in rags, criminal terror in the cities, quietly coexisting with state terror. The NEP revived trade and the service sector a little. But who needs a service industry in such an environment?

And only the Cheka-GPU, as the main support of the regime, still retained a more or less good shape, gladly fulfilling Ilyich's behest of permanent state terror, realizing that the new leader would not leave them without work. The new leader provided them with a good job, but he also set a lifespan for each of them no more than 10 years. For the state conceived by Stalin turned into a ship going nowhere, the boilers of which were able to generate energy only from human lives constantly thrown into the furnace - thousands, millions, tens of millions. And the KGB stokers, working at the furnaces around the clock with rapture and enthusiasm, after finishing their shift, also turned into fuel for the boilers of a huge ship, carrying on its sides an inimitable magnificent slogan: "Lenin's teaching is immortal, because it is true!". How many of them, flashing with gold shoulder straps, blue buttonholes, chrome-polished boots, creaking with new belts, descended into the terrible stoker, not realizing that they would never go out on the upper deck, that they themselves were nothing more than fuel for boilers. Everything is fuel. This was the unearthly wisdom of both the leader of the world proletariat and his humble disciple, the leader of all peoples. But the fireboxes were burning, the boilers were steaming, and the ship was moving, although it was not known where, but picking up speed.

On December 5, 1931, in the very center of Moscow, the majestic Cathedral of Christ the Savior was solemnly blown up - a symbol of old Russia, its most revered shrine, built over 40 years during the reign of four emperors. The thunder of this explosion was supposed to show the whole world that the thousand-year-old Russian Empire was destroyed forever, and that its animated corpse, called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, had already risen to its feet and began to act. It is this date that can be considered the beginning of Stalin's independent activity, when, having shaken off the "Leninist guard", the NEP and everything else inherited from the great turmoil of 1917, he led the reanimated corpse along the path he had drawn. 10 years have passed - a microsecond on the scale of history - and the stunned world, with horror mixed with admiration, was forced to admit that it had witnessed a miracle. And although this miracle was very militarized, this did not make it any less impressive.

At this time, 303 divisions were already under arms. 23 thousand tanks, including armored monsters with diesel rather than gasoline engines, unprecedented in the world, were reduced to steel, all-destroying armada. 17,000 aircraft, including models at least as good as the best Western models, plied the skies in dense formations of countless squadrons, elegantly changing into a huge slogan on the fly. "Glory to the great Stalin!" 40,000 artillery pieces and secret rocket launchers were ready to sweep away everything that lies on the road to the victory of communism on a world scale. 220 submarines - more than all countries in the world combined, squadrons of the latest

destroyers and cruisers, super battleships being built in a feverish rush made it clear to the aging maritime powers that the sun of their glory had long passed its zenith. Plants that smelt steel and iron per capita are the largest in the world, countless design bureaus, laboratories, research institutes that develop new types of weapons that come close to nuclear fire and jet propulsion.

Where did it all start? Where did hundreds of thousands, millions of engineers, researchers, designers, pilots, navigators, mechanics, tank drivers, ship commanders, naval navigators, electricians, miners, gunners, mechanical engineers of the surface and submarine fleet, specialists in metallurgy of superalloys, superconductivity, plasma come from? , radio engineering and radar? They didn't grow on trees. And in 1913, not a single one of this category of military and civilian specialists was in sight. Almost no one, not counting a few, was gone in 1930. And now, in just 10 years, they appeared, and in such numbers that they formed the infrastructure of a powerful military-industrial empire. And just 10 years ago, many of them did not even know how to read and write.

It is not about the price and why all this was created, but about how it was possible to create it in such a short time! Like an epic hero, throwing a handful of earth with a cry: "Arise, myriad army!" - and watching how millions of already trained, equipped and armed soldiers grow out of the ground, Stalin could, with obvious satisfaction, believe in his ability to work miracles. The energy from the millions of human beings burned in the firebox of socialism was transformed into vigorous work.

Stalin and the party of new "sword-bearers" created by him demonstrated their organizational power and incredible efficiency.

During this time, more than 60 thousand churches were blown up and destroyed, but about the same number of stadiums and houses of culture were built. Terror, constantly gaining strength, honed the discipline of work and life. Almost all the party "officers", including the "generals", were methodically destroyed or thrown into the millstones of the GULAG, being replaced by a new one, even more merciless and devoted to the leader. The nomenklatura was cemented, erecting an impenetrable wall between itself and the people being destroyed.

The secrecy of the life of the nomenklatura has already been elevated to the rank of the most guarded state secret. Simple curiosity about how the "leaders" live, eat and work, as a rule, ended for an ordinary person with execution, since the only motive for such curiosity was the desire to organize a terrorist attack on the life of any leader. The dictatorship of the proletariat, about which Marx spoke very indistinctly, turned into the dictatorship of the nomenklatura over the people, without exception turned into a proletariat in the most direct sense of the word - deprived of property and legal rights, doing work at the discretion of the owner and receiving just enough for work so as not to die with starve or starve to death, if the owner decides so. In principle, there was nothing tricky in such upbringing of slaves. As we have already mentioned, the technique was developed back in ancient antiquity. The trick was completely different - to make the slaves sing in choir, and even in ecstasy to sing a song: "I don't know another such country where a person breathes so freely!" And in this regard, such a gigantic work was carried out, in comparison with which the construction of the pyramids looks like a game in a children's sandbox.

But with what funds and in the name of what was such work, cosmic in scale, done?

Having inherited an empty treasury from Lenin,[21] Stalin worked hard to fill it up. Back in 1919, Lenin created the "diamond" and "gold" fund of the Politburo, distributed equally among its members. The purpose of the "fund" was as follows: in the event of a military catastrophe, the members of the Politburo, having seized their share, make their way abroad and use the "fund" to settle down for the first time.

The situation could be unpredictable: the inability to contact banks and each other, the hostile aggressiveness of local authorities and the like.

After all, it was not about Western Europe or the USA, where, perhaps, it would not be possible to hide, but about various exotic countries like Argentina, where Bukharin was going. However, it immediately became clear that you can't take much gold with you - it's heavy, but diamonds and polished diamonds could be captured much more and for a much larger amount. Therefore, gold gradually migrated to Western banks, while diamonds remained in the "fund".

Even during the life of Lenin, Stalin, having become secretary of the Central Committee, withdrew all the diamonds from the fund and handed them over for storage to Sverdlov's widow Claudia Novgorodtseva, who filled them with four huge boxes of a massive old chest of drawers and a chest of medium size. The widow lived quietly, inconspicuously and did not work anywhere.

Other people who knew about the displacement did not live even a day. Members of the Politburo tried to make a scandal, accusing Stalin of some trivial theft. The future leader of all nations, hiding a grin in his famous mustache, explained that the diamonds were moved in order to guarantee their safety - they steal too well in the Gokhran, you can't keep track. This is first. And secondly, there are no objective prerequisites for the fact that in the foreseeable future it will be necessary to flee abroad and deploy underground or other activities there. If one of the comrades wishes to go abroad "for permanent residence", then let him, as it should be, announce this to the Politburo, the issue will be discussed, and if a positive decision is made, the person leaving will receive his share. Although personally he, Stalin, is against it. Since they have already received their share and hid it where they wanted, and the Politburo fund is not personal, but exists for specific organizational work in the underground.

To the question: "Who ordered that?" Stalin, puffing his pipe in the face of the questioning Zinoviev, answered: "I ordered!" The yellow lights in Stalin's eyes caused Zinoviev to have a strong heartbeat, from which the chief of the Comintern did not manage to get rid of until the very execution.

Having first sent Lenin, Dzerzhinsky and Frunze to the grave and filled the vacant posts with himself, Yagoda and Voroshilov, Stalin constantly thought about gold in the course of implementing his grandiose plans. And like everything else, the thoughts of Joseph Vissarionovich were immediately embodied in concrete deeds.

Through the Central Committee, the nominal chief of the GPU Menzhinsky was summoned to the Central Control Commission, where he was asked a number of questions regarding his multifaceted activities in the Chekist and diplomatic fields from 1917 to 1920. The questions began with trifles related to the Spartacist movement in Germany, but somehow imperceptibly moved on to huge sums that went into Western banks through the hands of the Deputy "Iron Felix". Menzhinsky had a heart attack. This was very helpful, as it made it possible to hide him quietly - for health reasons - under house arrest, where the investigation passed directly to Yagoda and the attending physicians subordinate to him. A confrontation with Ioffe, who was recommended to visit "an old, sick friend," was also arranged to refresh his memory. After visiting a friend, Ioffe returned home and shot himself. This was an obvious omission in the work of the GPU, about which Iosif Vissarionovich remarked reproachfully to Yagoda. He promised that such punctures would not happen again, and he did not even shoot himself when his turn came.

Only Ganetsky expressed a specific desire to flee abroad. He was already allowed, but suddenly his wife was arrested, and then his son. Ganetsky, meanwhile, almost every week visited his "old party comrade", who was kept in a dacha near Moscow, all approaches to which were guarded by his own subordinates, since Menzhinsky remained the head of the GPU, and Yagoda was listed as one of his deputies. For four months of such visits, Ganetsky became unrecognizable: he became completely gray-haired, his health broke down, and when he was shot along with his whole family, then all the money from personal accounts, both of himself and of all his friends, including Lenin, was already removed and returned to Moscow.

At the same time, the GPU tried to find Parvus. In 1924, news came of his death in Switzerland, but no one wanted to believe it, because there was too much evidence that Parvus simply changed his name again and disappeared. To facilitate the search for his father, the son of Parvus, who worked in the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs under the surname Gnedin, was arrested. The father was never found, which saved the son. They did not want to shoot him until a confrontation with his father, and therefore he managed to sit in prison until Stalin's death.

At the same time, Yagoda launched a global operation, unprecedented in its multi-layered nature, widely known under the code name "Trust". What really was the "Trust" is still not understood.

The late Vasily Shulgin, who did not like to talk about this topic, somehow nevertheless remarked that "Trust is a betrayal that has risen to such heights that you cannot even think of." All available operational forces of the OGPU, both domestically and abroad, were involved in the operation. There was an incomprehensible secret and cruel war between different departments of the Stalinist secret police with the introduction of their employees into the structures of adjacent departments (which were territorially located on the same floor, across the corridor or, in extreme cases, on the next floor of the same building), with the issuance of lit up "allied" "white" counterintelligence or European law enforcement agencies, with the ruthless destruction of competitors in numerous showdowns from Moscow to Paris, with real and fake "windows" on the border, with an unthinkable leapfrog of double, triple and quadruple agents. Apparently, the leadership of the OGPU itself got confused in this game, since not one of the participants in this operation survived 1937, except for two English and one German intelligence officers who, under the roof of the Trust, managed to infiltrate the NKVD and leave interesting memories.

The Trust, apparently, had several goals. Not all of them are obvious, and some are even difficult to formulate. But one of the goals is quite clear: to reach the White Guard gold and sources of financing with the connection of the "Trust" groups to these sources. In parallel, there was a search for gold by the Left Socialist-Revolutionaries, who for about 15 years robbed the banks of Russia and Europe. The abductions of Boris Savinkov and General Kutepov, which took place almost at the same time, speak for themselves. At the same time, the OGPU agents, through a French intermediary, acquired a private bank in Paris, which quickly grew and became the famous Eurobank, the largest foreign bank in the capital of France. The most piquant thing in this story is that this bank was originally founded by Russian emigrants, and in fact, all the gold of the White movement, gradually pumped to Moscow, lay on its accounts.

Less romantic, but no less serious events were also held inside the country. Even due to the inertia of Lenin's times, valuables from the richest museums in Russia moved to the west, but this was soon put an end to.

The obvious reversibility of Stalin's policy in the light of the slogan put forward about the possibility of building socialism in one country, if not changing, then significantly improving the old Leninist methods of robbing the population.

Long gone are the general searches, when armed detachments broke into apartments in search of gold and jewelry. All this noise with shooting and screaming could no longer give the desired results, since the vast majority of people had already been cleaned to the skin, and if anyone else had anything left, it was hidden so that no search of the valuables buried in the ground and walled up in the walls could reveal was impossible. Everything was done simply and elegantly. Having inspired a terrible famine in the country, which took millions of people to the grave, the authorities opened the so-called "Torgsins" in many cities,[22] where you could buy some products (God knows what: pasta, fats, cereals, etc.), but only for gold and foreign currency. People themselves tore off their treasures and carried them to the torgsins, where GPU officers were already waiting with questions about where they got gold or currency, when both had long been ordered to surrender. A visit to "Torgsin", as a rule, meant a search on the same day and arrest with subsequent release in case of voluntary surrender of gold and currency.

In the midst of these events, the NEP was finally slammed. In all the major cities of the country, the "Nepmen" were summoned to the GPU and given a message, apparently coordinated by directive, and therefore got into history: "Gentlemen, you were saving up gold for a rainy day. Black day has come! Give it to the state."

Some, realizing the seriousness of the moment, on the principle of "life is more expensive", passed everything at once. The hesitant in different places were persuaded in different ways. Some were even lectured on the political economy of socialism, with the assurance that every citizen would become richer, stronger and freer if the mighty socialist state became the sole owner of gold in the country. Although these lectures, of course, were given in prisons where waverers were kept, few were able to convince. The majority continued to openly disbelieve in the economic viability of socialism. Not convincing with words, they began to convince with deeds. Where possible, the unfortunate "Nepmen" were kept in cells where the air was heated to 60 degrees without giving them water; in other places, cells with zero temperature and ankle-deep water were used, and where such complex methods could not or did not want to apply, they simply beat them in mortal combat. Only a few chose to die without giving anything. The majority gave up and gave away everything they had managed to accumulate during the short period of the New Economic Policy. But it was already too late, since such stubbornness aroused in the employees of the GPU a completely justified suspicion of the sincerity of their wards: had everything been handed over? Even if everything was handed over, it was not at all easy to prove it, if not impossible. Methods of torture were refined, and streams of gold continued to pour into the socialist treasury.

In the will-instruction left by Lenin to the native organs of the GPU, I remember that in the section "Secret enemies of the Soviet regime" in paragraphs 4 and 5 were listed: all former merchants, owners of shops and shops; all former owners of industrial enterprises and workshops; all former landowners, large tenants, rich peasants. These categories of subjects of the socialist state were dealt with by approximately the same methods as with the "NEPmen", only they were not given lectures on the political economy of socialism. To the assurances that "they supposedly took everything away from me back in 1918", they laughed: "So everything was taken away? What if you think about it? Remember what they hid, buried, walled up where? Don't remember? Remember! There is time." Remembered and died.

They held out to the end - they also perished. For they were doomed to death, and if at the same time they also handed over to the state, then it was just fine. Something else was worse.

There was no control over the huge army of investigators and interrogators from the GPU, and how much during these operations stuck to their hands remained unknown. This unnerved the leadership, but since it was decided, out of harm's way, to grind all the personnel of the GPU and the early NKVD in their own millstones, those who conducted such cases with "Nepmen" and various former ones were put through a special investigation. "You were in charge of the Sabashnikov case. How much did he hand over in gold and currency? Or maybe he gave more?"

Remember, bastard! And the barrel of a revolver between the eyes (sometimes already knocked out).

They remembered everything exactly. The technique was effective and not in vain has been constantly honed since 1917.

And how much romance in it was! Recall at least the case with the royal jewels. What Yurovsky brought from Yekaterinburg to Moscow was a drop in the ocean. It turned out that the emperor, while still in Tobolsk, through the chief of the convoy, Colonel Kobylansky, who was devoted to him, sent to freedom several dozen treasures sealed in six-liter metal cans from French olive oil, collected by the Romanov family over 300 years of ruling Russia and the Russian Empire. Colonel Kobylansky was stolen from the territory of China (later they began to lie that he was found in some Siberian timber industry enterprise, where the former colonel worked either as an accountant or as a watchman). And things got busy. With dashing chases along Siberian crossroads, with skirmishes in abandoned taiga farms, with arrests from Moscow to the outskirts. With orders of the combat Red Banner and bullets in the back of the head. The colonel himself was tortured to death, but only five cans of French olive oil were found, and there were 37 of them. The rest are still being searched.[23] And the gold of the Emir of Bukhara? And the Khan of Khiva?

Gold of the Baku Bank? Musavit gold? Diamonds of Khan of Nakhichevan? Yes, and do not count everything. Lenin did not have time to reach many things, which Stalin did. Years of investigation, mysterious murders of witnesses and investigators, entire villages, auls and kishlaks cut out, the use of military gases from aircraft over gorges in an attempt to stop mysterious caravans going nowhere, and the mysterious disappearance of hundreds of camels and people from these gorges, where they are, all over by the laws of nature, had to lie dead.

Gold exported from Spain. Captured in the Baltics and Bessarabia, bold plans to seize all European gold in a planned march into Europe. Thousands of secret folders, tens of thousands of summaries, reports, developments, projects. Military orders and unmarked graves, special rations and camp gruel, Stalin's tiger eyes and Tehran's underground prisons. Hundreds of plots for the most exciting novels and movies...

However, the global plans of Comrade Stalin, of course, could not be financially supported by such detectively beautiful, but, unfortunately, artisanal and unpredictable methods. Indeed, chasing the gold of the Emir of Bukhara through the mountain villages, no one could predict what the result would be. Will three or four gold Persian dinars be found in some sakla, or will the whole detachment perish, driven into a trap by the labyrinths of mountain paths and destroyed there by the ferocious spirits of black gorges?

Comrade Stalin's plans could not depend on such events, as well as on whether Colonel Kobylansky wished to help the investigation, or whether he wanted to die in silence. And they, of course, did not depend on all this.

In the old days, Russia panned Siberian mines with about 30 tons of gold per year. The old mines, thanks to many years of operation, were almost completely washed out, and the years of hard times brought these mines to a state of complete desolation. And the old prospector with a rifle in one hand and a pick in the other, exchanging gold dust for cartridges and sable skins, free and strong, did not fit into the structure of the new state at all. New times gave birth to new methods.

At the beginning of the century, geological exploration discovered large layers of gold in the valley of the Kolyma River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean in the extreme northeast of Yakutia. A desert region of permafrost, where the rivers were ice-bound for 285 days a year, and the primitive local population - not numerous and nomadic - was mainly engaged in fishing,

since even deer could not survive in the conditions there, it did not attract the attention of either the Russian government or private individuals. The exploitation of the subsoil in such conditions was considered unprofitable and simply impossible. But the Bolsheviks appeared on the historical scene precisely for this purpose, in order to "make a fairy tale come true."

In the summer of 1932, 12,000 prisoners, former prosperous peasants from Ukraine, the Don and the central regions of Russia, were landed in Magadan under the escort of 2,500 GPU soldiers with two hundred sheep dogs. The purpose of the "expedition" was the immediate start of the exploitation of gold placers discovered in the Kolyma.

It is not known who conceived and planned this operation, but the prisoners were brought in only shirts, the convoy - in tunics, and only the shepherds had fur coats, but this did not save them either. The frosts that broke out in September killed everyone.

Every single person died out, including guards and guard dogs. In the summer of 1933, 32,000 prisoners, slightly better equipped, were brought to Magadan. In winter, one out of fifty managed to survive. In the summer of 1934, another 48,000 people arrived. In the winter of 1934-1935, all the prisoners again died out, but the guards survived. In the summer of 1935, 38 thousand people were delivered. This was the basis of the socialist economy. The countless expenditure of people who, it was believed, justified their deaths with two months of slave labor, was the main engine of the Stalinist economy and, as we have already said, state progress.

Gold mines worked and produced products. From Moscow, a tough plan for production was launched, the failure to comply with which was mercilessly punished. The entire leadership of the Kolyma camp system had their heads on the line. Already in 1934, gold production reached the level of 1913. In 1936 this level was doubled. By the beginning of the war, gold production reached 250 tons. During this time, more than 600 thousand people died in the Kolyma mines alone. The four pre-war years were especially terrible, when the population of large cities began to enter the mines in large numbers. Their life in the mines rarely lasted more than five weeks.

At the same time, untold riches were discovered in the north of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, where in 1935 the construction of the Norilsk enrichment plant began. Norilsk ore, which is still sold for foreign currency, was in great demand in the country and in the world. Here everything developed according to the Kolyma method. Prisoners, who were taken in what, in the summer were delivered by barges to the port of Dudinka, where by the beginning of September the air temperature reached -45 degrees Celsius. People were driven to the plant either in a column or on open platforms of the famous Dudinka-Norilsk railway. A tenth of them arrived at the place of work. The rest died along the way. The arrivals were given crowbars and pickaxes and forced to dig dugouts for themselves in the cold and killing wind. By the next morning, everyone was dead. New arrivals continued to work, and so it went on ad infinitum, but already in 1936 the first ships with Norilsk ore appeared in European ports, giving Stalin a steady profit in hard currency.

So it was everywhere. People died by the millions, and in 1939 Stalin had every reason to say that "socialism in the USSR had already been built in general terms." He could be pleased. The system invented and developed by him worked both vertically and horizontally. Miracles happened. Behind prison bars, designers and engineers created designs for new weapons, while receiving irregular bread and half a glass of sour cream as a privilege. The imprisoned Tupolev created new aircraft, unprecedented in terms of flight range, capable of flying over the North Pole to America. The prisoner Ramzin created new direct-flow boilers for warships, and the prisoner Korolev was already developing rocket technology, anticipating spacewalks. And they were content, they appreciated their privileges, for millions of other prisoners toiled in the mines,

mines and mines for "rations" that could support the forces for no more than two weeks, not yet realizing that their deaths were planned in the same way as their two weeks' work, when other prisoners came to replace them.

The army, unprecedented in strength and numbers, was preparing for the campaign, waiting, as in the song: "when Comrade Stalin sends us into battle, and the first marshal will lead us into battle!"

Stalin admired his army and was mortally afraid of it. She was created by him from almost nothing and could turn him into nothing. The huge military-industrial complex, increasing its momentum every day, flooded the country with the latest weapons systems. The huge flywheel, picking up speed, threatened to crush everything in its path, including its creator. Like the warlocks of legends, who invested a huge amount of gold and vitality to revive the stone giant in the hope of seizing power over the whole world with his help, the leader felt the creator's legitimate pride and the awe of a living creature of flesh and blood before the monster created by his hands.

The gold of the party and the ocean of people's blood created a monstrous alloy, cast into a huge steel fist, raised above all of humanity. At some stage, Stalin himself was horrified by the monster he had created and tried to destroy it with his own hands. In 1937, Stalin tried with seas of blood that flooded the country to free himself from the steel embrace of the military-industrial complex and the nomenklatura that had gained strength. The heads of marshals, army commanders, commanders, division commanders, people's commissars, members of the Central Committee, secretaries of regional committees, regional committees, district committees and, of course, millions of ordinary people who once again landed in another nomenklatura meat grinder flew in succession. Stalin fought like an epic hero, but unlike the latter, he lost. He could no longer destroy what he had created. The alloy of gold and blood was too strong. The gold of the Party and the blood of the people created an invincible nomenklatura in the Party, the army and industry, in which three new heads grew in place of a severed head.

But if the leader could not defeat the nomenklatura, then the nomenklatura could not defeat the leader either. The year 1937 showed well to the warring parties that all the nomenclature components of the system are connected like Siamese twins.

An attempt to destroy even one component can lead to the death of the entire system as such.

Having suffered heavy losses in the merciless war of 1937-1939, the nomenklatura came out of this war stronger, and Stalin understood this very well. Since it was not possible to destroy each other, it was necessary to establish relations between the nomenklatura hierarchy and its creator, Stalin. These relations have already lost their former lyrical character, but have become quite realistic and far from being exhausted by the apparent devotion of the apparatchiks to their leader. The Stalinist nomenklatura was created. Stalin, but he was the creation of the nomenklatura, which for the time being he did not clearly realize. The nomenklatura created the social support of his dictatorship, not out of touching love and divine devotion to the Georgian dictator, but to ensure their own collective dictatorship in the country. Obsequiously carrying out the orders of the leader, the nomenclature proceeded from the fact that these orders were given in its interests. Of course, Stalin could destroy, drive out, burn alive any of them individually, if necessary, but he could not go against the entire layer of the nomenklatura, but he did not understand this clearly enough until the end of his life. Everything in his capricious soul of an Eastern despot rebelled against this. He could not come to terms with the idea that not everything is subject to his will and desire, from time to time starting new wars against the nomenklatura. But these were no longer wars, but rather sorties, each of which made the nomenklatura stronger, and Stalin himself, weaker and weaker.

Willy-nilly, he had to take more care of the interests of the nomenklatura, of

strengthening its power, authority, and expanding its privileges. For he was nothing more than a protege of his proteges, ready to unswervingly carry out his will, only so long as he does their will.

And the will of the nomenklatura created by Stalin was already clearly visible. She wanted to secure undivided and lasting dominance in the country.

Domination, not dependent on the arbitrariness and whims of the leader, but on the contrary, dominance in which the leader would be nothing more than an executor of the will of the nomenklatura, while not having any rights to property, and even more so, to the life of any of the members of the nomenklatura. This is how the image of Lenin was preserved in the legends. He forgave everything to his own, any lawlessness, allowing them to do whatever they please in the country in the name of personal enrichment and collective prosperity. This was a real leader. And in the bowels of the nomenclature, an underlying desire began to ripen "to return to the Leninist norms of party life."

Stalin knew about this. At the peak of his power, he had the temptation to publicly declare Ilyich a German spy and wipe even the memory of him into dust. The already arrested Fritz Platten gave the necessary evidence, but at the last moment Stalin did not have the courage. Still, "Stalin is Lenin today." He struggled with the Leninist legacy all his life as best he could. "Lenin's guard" destroyed the whole under the root. He renounced the Leninist propaganda theory of indispensable universal equality. To him, this equality, no one expected.

On the contrary, he emphasized that "every communist, if he is a real communist, must understand that equality in the sphere of consumption and individual life is miserable, petty-bourgeois nonsense." The nomenklatura gave a standing ovation.

He abandoned Lenin's nonsense about the possibility of building socialism only on a world scale, because the nomenclature he created, already once deceived by hopes for a world proletarian revolution and irritated by Trotskyist speculations about a "permanent revolution", wanted to sit down firmly, not wanting to make its future dependent on new events beyond their control. And they received with delight what they were waiting for: "the possibility of building socialism in one country." From the point of view of Marxism, this Stalinist formula was completely meaningless. But you never know what Marx and Lenin pleaded, who needs to look for some meaning in their sayings. Still, it was obvious that a classless society could not be created as an island in the sea of capitalism.

However, the Stalinist nomenklatura greeted the new formula with a howl of delight, illuminating their power with the word "socialism". They were not embarrassed by the fact that, according to Stalin, the victory of socialism in one country could be "complete, but not final." The purpose of the thesis about the inconclusiveness of the victory of socialism in the USSR was not to arouse some unhealthy and unrealizable hopes among the exterminated people. And in using the thesis of the inconclusiveness of the victory of socialism in connection with the "threat of the restoration of capitalism" as a justification for Stalin's domestic, military and foreign policy. And the assertion that the victory of socialism in the USSR could be complete meant precisely the recognition of the stability and final character of the regime.

And this same nomenclature, for which he, Stalin, did everything in his power, began to dream of some kind of "Leninist norms".

No matter how many wolves you feed!

He unleashed his bloodthirsty dog Yezhov on them, giving his "iron commissar" and his henchmen plenty to drink nomenklatura blood. But nothing happened. Yezhov was quietly dismissed from all positions and just as quietly, without much noise, was shot. But it struck everyone that the liquidation of Yezhov was carried out with some incomprehensible

softness, not at all in the spirit of the times.

We can say with tenderness. There were no curses in the newspapers, no nationwide rallies demanding "destroy the vermin", no trials of confessions, no standard accusations of striving for the restoration of capitalism, not even the usual report of the execution. (This became known only in 1988. And in those days, two rumors about the fate of Yezhov were spread through the NKVD. The first was that he had gone crazy and was chained in a madhouse; chest with a sign saying "I am shit." Both rumors are wonderful, if you think about it).

Moreover, there were no, even the most elementary, repressions against the relatives of Yezhov himself, which is very strange when compared with the existing practice, when, say, not only all relatives, but even mistresses of Marshal Tukhachevsky were arrested and killed. As for Yezhov's relatives, they calmly continued to live in Moscow, and even after the war, the brother of the "iron people's commissar" held the nomenklatura post of Deputy Minister of Education of the RSFSR. If Yezhov himself was eliminated so delicately, then his henchmen not only did not suffer in any way, but also went uphill steeply.

Immediately after the fall of his boss, Yezhov's deputy Shkiryatov was elected a member of the Central Committee and took the most important nomenclature post of chairman of the Party Control Commission under the Central Committee. The famous Vyshinsky was also showered with honors, becoming a member of the Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, as well as an academician. [24]

And there is nothing to say about the fact that such figures of the era of bloody madness as Molotov, Zhdanov, Kaganovich and many others survived. It was an absolute victory, but not complete and not final. The country was in a state of deep economic and political crisis. Interruptions in supply and kilometer-long queues were observed even in Moscow. Industry, working only for war, was, as it were, excluded from the state economy, like a snake biting its own tail. Slave labor at all levels, from rocket design to gold mining, turned out, to the great surprise of party ideologists who imagined themselves to be economists, to be completely unprofitable, monthly expanding the bottomless abyss of the payment deficit.

An abyss into which the entire Stalinist empire, tied with barbed wire, was ready to collapse. And besides everything else, it was obvious even to an outside observer that the leader and his nomenklatura were tired of each other.

But if Stalin was unable to destroy the nomenklatura, which he could only recently be convinced of, then the nomenklatura, having licked the wounds inflicted by Yezhovism, could well make a new attempt to replace the leader, and this time a successful one.

A thin layer of granite cladding around the monumental majestic facade of the Stalinist building erected on the grave of the Russian Empire began to crumble, exposing uneven brickwork, ready to crumble, fastened instead of cement mortar with dried human blood. It was necessary to look for a way out. Mindful of the Leninist methodology, which during periods of political crises rallied accomplices around itself, raising and inspiring them to some new robbery, Stalin developed a win-win, as it seemed to him, plan for a phased pan-European, and then worldwide crisis using his politics of emotional and excessively aggressive.

Adolf Hitler. Stalin's entourage took their breath away from the opening prospects.

Exhaustion and self-destruction of major European powers tied into a tight knot

old grievances and irreconcilable contradictions, opened the way for the Stalinist army to an exhausted and defenseless Europe, making it possible to confirm Lenin's prophecy about the inevitability of wars in the era of imperialism and to carry out the "world proletarian", the fastest and most effective method of military invasion. And without any Marxist-Leninist insanity.

The prospects were truly breathtaking. In addition to confirming the dead and already stinking ideological dogmas almost for the whole world, a great opportunity was created to consolidate the situation in the country, even more fool the people and rally around them eternally dissatisfied accomplices, write off massacres and poverty for the war, justify the need for slave labor and unprecedented police - terrorist laws. The victorious march to the Atlantic could become an indulgence for many years for all past, present and future crimes.

Breaking all the milestones of past foreign policy guidelines, Stalin sharply turned the state ship towards rapprochement with Hitler, hoping to join the wake of the fascist Fuhrer bravo marching across Europe, snatch his share, and at the right moment, lulling his accomplice's vigilance with his boundless devotion, fall on his back, destroy and take advantage of the fruits of his brilliant victories, receiving bloody and destroyed Europe as a trophy.

And again, the violent delight of the nomenklatura, which has long been morally prepared since Lenin's time for the fact that by Providence itself (or the Marxist-Leninist laws of historical development) it is destined to rule the whole world, turning it into a huge concentration camp built on a giant mass grave.

Convinced of his unearthly wisdom and super-Asian cunning, the illiterate "leader of all peoples" famously led the country into an impenetrable dead end and a deadly trap in which our unfortunate country still beats, falling to pieces...

Winding in the most complex labyrinths of international intrigues, sincerely believing that he was playing his own game, Stalin could not even imagine that he was a puppet of those very powerful and dynamic forces whose infantile cry Lenin mistook for a death rattle. He could not imagine that his upcoming fight with Hitler had long been conceived and planned in the silence of other people's offices in order to give vent to these forces for the implementation of their plan for world domination - economic domination, in comparison with which faded, becoming obsolete and ineffective, all previously used methods for this: military and ideological.

This plan initially provided for the primacy of the military over the economic, gradually reducing the military component to a minimum, giving all priority to the global economic offensive. The plan was designed for approximately 100 years, providing for the economic unification of the United States and Europe.

The plan provided for a sharp initial economic weakening of Europe, primarily Germany, with their subsequent restoration according to a new model. At the same time, as a prerequisite, the plan assumed the final collapse of the British Empire and the entire archaic colonial system.

As for Russia, in addition to the role assigned to it in the coming battle with.

Hitler, the plan provided for its isolation in the future with artificial heating of its aggressiveness in order to rally the rest of the world in the face of the "Russian danger". Being in economic and cultural isolation, the authors of the plan believed, Russia would lag behind the rest of the world so much that sooner or later (somewhere by the end of the century) it would be forced to capitulate unconditionally without any military influence, being unable to

resist economic occupation. It is clear that this plan could not foresee the entire true course of events, leaving a lot of room for adjusting it on the go. It is also clear that a primitive and illiterate statesman, such as Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, was the same godsend for this plan as Hitler.

If anyone, according to the stereotype of our Russian thinking, thinks that this plan existed in one copy with all conceivable and unthinkable secrecy stamps, that only persons with a rank not lower than the US President or the Great Architect of the "Jewish Masons" could get acquainted with this plan over the past 60 years he is gravely mistaken. American newspapers have openly written about this plan and are still writing about it. This plan was born by the Budget Commission of the US Congress, which in 1938, discussing the possibility of a sharp increase in defense spending, came to the conclusion that "the situation in Europe and throughout the Euro-Asian continent provides a unique chance for the United States government to regulate the level of the world crisis at its own discretion. a single transfer of government funds without burdening taxpayers with a sharp increase in spending on the military. For the implementation of the planned economic expansion, the armed forces that we have are quite enough.

However, "business America" did not agree with the conclusion of the budget commission.

The Wall Street Journal, in a July 1939 editorial, wrote: "Every million dollars must be guarded by three: one sailor, one airman, and one soldier. No matter how tempting the plan of economic expansion is, it is ridiculous to carry it out with our 120,000-strong operetta army. And the dynamics of the development of events in the world suggests that we have too little time to keep up with these events. No matter how fast the dollar rolls, time flies faster ... "

Time passed very quickly, and in September 1944, the Chicago Herald Tribune noted with pleasure: "Today, when tens of thousands of ships and aircraft ensured the invasion of our army of many millions on a front covering the entire globe from Normandy, Africa and Italy to the Philippines and Okinawa, As we witness military operations hitherto unknown in scale and skill, we must remember why we created the most powerful and efficient military machine in the history of mankind. As early as 1911, President Taft predicted that "gunboat diplomacy" was fading, paving the way for "dollar diplomacy." Dollars will strike our enemies with much greater efficiency than bullets and shells, providing our great republic with world hegemony on a completely new basis, which no Napoleon even dreamed of ... Now, when the collapse of Germany and Japan is already a matter of the near future, when huge Russia lies in blood and ruins, we can say with confidence: "The hour of the dollar has come!"

Quoting such things is endless, and, looking ahead, here is another excerpt from the Christian Science Monitor of August 15, 1989: "The great dollar offensive against the Soviet Union is progressing well. 30,000 nuclear warheads and the largest army in the world, equipped with the latest technology, were unable to protect the territory of their country from the all-pervading dollar, which had already half destroyed Russian industry, finished off communist ideology and corroded Soviet society. The USSR is no longer able to resist and experts predict its collapse within the next two or three years ... We should pay tribute to the great plan that was drafted by President Taft, polished by President Roosevelt and consistently carried out by all American presidents, realizing it in just 50 years instead of the released hundred ... ".

Did they know about it in Moscow? Certainly yes. Laughed and did not attach any importance?

Not at all. On the contrary, they took this American undertaking with complete seriousness, although without sufficient understanding. Let us recall with what horror Stalin recoiled from the Marshall Plan. Let us also remember that at the height of the Cold War we were not so much fighting the United States as we were fighting the Wall Street clique. Let's leaf through all the Soviet newspapers of that time and make sure that it is Wall Street that strives for world domination and the enslavement of all peace-loving peoples. Despite his rudimentary knowledge of the world economy, Stalin was well aware of the danger and tried with all his might to fight it. Alas, as Bismarck used to say, mistakes in politics are like tuberculosis. When they can be cured, they are invisible. Once they are noticeable, they can no longer be cured.

Having become confused in his calculations and becoming a victim of an unprecedented flow of misinformation, which was brought down on him not only by future enemies, but also by future allies, Stalin exposed the country to the blow of a surprise attack and once again almost destroyed it. Too much for one country in such a short period of time. The sizzling wave of the German invasion reached Moscow, the Volga and the Caucasus, giving way to an even more sizzling wave of our counteroffensive. The giant steam-roller again ironed the plundered, crucified, bleeding, hungry country.

26 million killed, thousands of cities, towns and villages razed to the ground, tens of thousands of industrial enterprises destroyed, vast agricultural areas completely depopulated, hundreds of thousands of kilometers of railways destroyed, 2 trillion 500 billion rubles of direct material loss, 3 trillion gold rubles of military spending. Millions of maimed, homeless and displaced people...[25]

The banner of victory over the Reichstag and the capture of the countries of Eastern Europe could serve as some compensation for another national catastrophe, if it had not given rise to new problems, much more sinister and intractable.

Hitler's sudden attack on the USSR, ironically, threw the prostrated Stalin into the arms of the United States and England, who created the so-called "Allied anti-Hitler coalition." However, this was the intention, though not by Stalin.[26]

And Hitler started first! While in the vast expanses of Russia, the Wehrmacht and the Red Army were grinding each other in continuous infantry and artillery meat grinders, the United States, substituting its old battleships for Japanese bombs at Pearl Harbor, effectively entered the Second World War and began to wage it according to its own scenario, having in mind their global plans.

Of course, we should not forget that both in war and in politics, no one has ever succeeded (and will never succeed) in carrying out the planned scenario, even under the most favorable circumstances, one hundred percent. The Americans did not succeed either. But by about 60% they carried out everything they planned. The British Empire ceased to exist, the Japanese Empire collapsed, crushed by American military power, cracked at the seams, and soon the French Empire ceased to exist. Frightened, devastated Europe in fear, like a sick child, clung to the mighty American chest, seeing in the great overseas republic the only guarantor of its rapid recovery and future security. Huge regions of the Pacific.

The Atlantic and Indian Oceans were undividedly controlled by the gigantic American fleet. The American army occupied vast territories c.

Europe, Africa and Asia. A chain of military bases on all continents encircled the globe with coils of huge spirals resembling the rings of a boa constrictor. And all this was obtained at the cost of 400 thousand dead and 535 billion dollars. And into the vacuum formed on the site of collapsed and collapsing empires, countries wiped off the face of the earth and smoking ruins of cities,

dollar, licking and healing the bloody wounds of war and laying a solid foundation for the next step towards full world hegemony. And the atomic mushrooms that rose at the end of the war over Hiroshima and Nagasaki became the guarantor of the inviolability of what was achieved ...

Except for the terrible losses and the country once again ravaged to the ground, then Stalin had every reason to believe that he had fulfilled his pre-war plans by at least fifty percent. A good half of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, the northern part of Korea were not only captured by Soviet troops, but also legally fixed by the Potsdam Conference as a Soviet sphere

influence.

Almost immediately, communist regimes were established there, at the head of which Stalin placed the old Cominternists who had survived the pre-war purges or deliberately saved by the prudent leader of all peoples in case of a similar event. By handing over Eastern Europe to Stalin's clutches, the Americans already considered it as a time bomb, which, when it exploded, would smash the Soviet Union as well. It was another smart move.

However, the big surprise that Iosif Vissarionovich gave too much to the allies who thought of themselves was the seizure of power in China by the communists, which placed almost unlimited human reserves under the Stalinist banners. Moreover, from Beijing, the communist contagion began to spread rapidly, first in Southeast Asia, and then went further - to India, the countries of the Middle East and Africa. Communist uprisings broke out in Iran, Turkey and Greece, taking the Americans by surprise. Only Stalin's temporary absence of nuclear weapons allowed the Americans to stabilize the situation in these countries and force the Red Army to withdraw from northern Iran.

But while they were doing this, the communists seized power in Albania, placing much of the Balkans and strategic outlets to the Mediterranean under Stalin's control. American generals, who got a taste of global offensive operations during the war, foamed at the mouth to prove to the government the need to "appease" the USSR with the help of atomic weapons, while America owns these weapons alone. President Truman was presented with a detailed plan, where targets for atomic bombings on the territory of the USSR were marked, and the Union itself was divided into occupation zones. After victorious wars in any country, generals become a force to be reckoned with, and it is very difficult to restrain their onslaught. But what the generals proposed was so contrary to the developed plan of the "offensive of the dollar" that they had to cool down their ardor somewhat, in fact, transferring the secret of atomic weapons to Stalin through intelligence. [27] There must always be a balance in the world so as not to fall into temptation.

But if the American generals got a taste for solving all problems by strategic operations, then Stalin was no less tempted by his huge military machine, created by 1945. Having never served in the army, having been rejected by the medical commission in 1915, Stalin began his military career immediately with the rank of marshal, and a couple of years later became a generalissimo, like Franco and Chiang Kai-shek. He came out of the war even more militarist than he was in the thirties, preparing his famous march to Europe. "We are military people," he said, clapping Field Marshal Montgomery on the shoulder, "and, as military people, we will understand each other well."

Many believe that Stalin after the war became just a martinet. When Harriman once told him that the Vatican was the most powerful state in Europe, Stalin chuckled and asked him: "How many tank divisions does the Vatican have?" The impression was created that, seized by the mania of world domination, Stalin really measured the power and influence of countries only by the number of tank and other divisions.

It wasn't like that at all.

The war, the constant expectation of a military catastrophe during its first two years, communication with Churchill, Roosevelt and other statesmen and military figures of America and Europe, greatly changed Stalin, giving him the opportunity to understand many things that were completely incomprehensible to him in the pre-war years.

Before the war, Stalin really measured everything by the power of the armed forces.

Like Richard III, who, according to legend, with pleasure threw wax figures of the pretenders to the throne he had killed into the fireplace, moving his own figure closer and closer to the throne, Stalin in the pre-war years with the same pleasure "thrown into the fire" the European armies that were not destroyed by him : Polish, French, Dutch, Belgian, Norwegian, Yugoslav, Greek. And, finally, in Europe there were practically no more armies left, except for the German one. All that was left to do was to slap it - and Europe, like a pouring apple, would fall into his palm. In his opinion, the British army could not be taken into account, as well as the American one, since the Anglo-Americans could not interfere with his plans with their battleships and aircraft carriers.

Did not work out.

And when it seemed again that it would turn out, in front of him, like a phantom, appeared a fifteen-million-strong American army, perfectly prepared, well-fed, young, and even with an atomic bomb.

But most importantly, this army stood on a huge dollar shaft, ready to immediately cover and flood the impoverished, ruined Stalinist empire. And Stalin understood this very well. The Iron Curtain slammed shut, isolating the country from the outside world while shutting out the virgin Soviet market from any dollar penetration. A series of new decrees followed, prohibiting the public from holding any amount in currency or in gold coin. A gigantic confrontation with the most powerful and richest country in the world began. Knowing about the "dollar" plan, perhaps not understanding some of its purely financial intricacies, Stalin, simply by the instinct of self-preservation, realized that it was necessary to force the West to waste as many dollars as possible in order to prevent the currency shaft from breaking through the Iron Curtain, to ease pressure on the USSR and thereby gaining time.

As soon as he got his hands on atomic weapons, Stalin unleashed a war in Korea, and when this adventure almost ended in disaster for North Korea, he also connected millions of Chinese to the war, who managed to fill the Americans with the corpses of their compatriots and somehow bring the conflict to a draw. The Americans managed to preserve the sovereignty of South Korea, as always, losing 100 times less people and equipment, but spending a hundred times more than their opponents on waging war, which was exactly what Moscow intended.

But if Moscow spent much less than the United States on the Korean adventure, post-war spending became unthinkable. Huge armies were concentrated on the line of confrontation in central Europe, constantly being saturated with modern weapons.

A terrified Europe rallied around America, creating a defensive NATO alliance. In response, Stalin drove the countries of Eastern Europe subject to him into the Warsaw Pact. The stalemate in Europe from time to time gave rise to crises, when Stalin, being out of sorts, suddenly announced, probing the combat readiness of the West, something like another blockade of West Berlin. An American air bridge buzzed across the territory occupied by the Soviet troops, tanks on the dividing line swayed menacingly with guns, bombers and fighters warmed up the engines, camouflage nets flew from thousands of artillery barrels. But no one opened fire. The ghost of Hiroshima and Nagasaki stood

in front of everyone.

But huge money was spent.

And although the Soviet Union, as usual, was sorely lacking, Stalin was already thinking about how to seize the initiative in this global confrontation. There were two ways. The first was the way of creating overwhelming military superiority over the enemy. The second is the destruction of the enemy from within by the old Leninist methods, using as a tool the fifth column of legal, semi-legal and illegal communist parties capable of causing social explosions in the Western world whenever Moscow needs it. And if necessary, not only social explosions, but real explosions. On military bases, on warships and in government offices, and just on crowded streets.

Both ways demanded huge expenses.

A gigantic program of military shipbuilding was conceived and began to be carried out, because without the crushing of American naval power, the possibility of seizing world hegemony seemed absolutely incredible. The strategic capabilities that the United States fleet demonstrated during the war years first made Stalin tremble (until he had an atomic bomb, the leader fearfully expected an American landing in the Crimea almost daily), and then became a subject for imitation.

The history of the laying and construction of the monstrous battlecruisers of the Stalingrad type still cannot find a reasonable explanation. Either the leader of all nations went completely crazy after the war, or these mastodons contained some very deep, incomprehensible meaning for mere mortals, because building battlecruisers (each worth almost 2 billion rubles) in the post-war years was just as justified, as well as the construction of oar galleys.

At the same time, strategic aviation was also created, the actual absence of which during the war years made the leader very nervous. The actions of American flying fortresses over Germany and Japan, when up to a thousand aircraft participated in one raid, when the sun was fading, and bombs were literally falling like rain, had a huge impact on Comrade Stalin, who was impressionable by nature. He decided to have the same air power and ordered Tupolev, released from prison, to create a strategic bomber of equal strength. An American strategic bomber B-29 was delivered to the airfield near Moscow, which made an emergency landing near Khabarovsk in 1944, and Tupolev was ordered to take it as a basis. To justify the confidence of the leader, Tupolev removed the drawings from the trophy and launched the model into a series under the more elegant name Tu-4. The talented aircraft designer did not want to waste time copying. In his design bureau, the development of the Tu-16 jet strategic bomber and the Tu-14 naval torpedo bomber was already in full swing. Other design bureaus did not lag behind. A strategic bomber was tested.

Myatishchev, the first jet MIGs were already tested in air battles with American Sabers in the skies of Korea.

And Korolev, released from prison, was already preparing a new surprise for the Americans, creating a fundamentally new missile weapon based on the captured V-2 rocket, which would be destined in just a few years to completely change the military-strategic situation in the world, forcing the Americans for the first time to feel like a front-line country and spend new billions of dollars this time not for global plans for the redistribution of the world, but for their own defense.

At the same time, making the most of the democratic way of life in the countries of Western

Europe and the USA, a plan was developed, constantly corrected and persistently put into practice to destabilize public life in these countries by directly subordinating the local communist parties to Moscow, which, in fact, Stalin had in mind when dispersing the Comintern. The main emphasis was placed on the most fashionable French Communist Party in Europe at that time, led by Maurice Thorez. In those years, France was a key NATO country.

All headquarters and central institutions of this organization were located in Paris. Ideally, the plan provided for the organization of a nationwide armed uprising by the Communist Party at the moment indicated by Moscow with a call for help from the Red Army - according to the old methodology, worked out during the years of the Polish and Finnish wars. Until that moment arrived, Thorez, in accordance with the instructions, had to thwart the plans of the allies in every possible way, organizing workers' strikes, street marches and riots calling for the struggle for peace, against the warmongers, conducting furious propaganda in the media, glorifying the Soviet Union, its peace-loving foreign policy and the genius of the leader of all peoples, the winner of fascism, Generalissimo Stalin. At the same time, if possible, draw other parties and public groups of France into the orbit of the Communist Party.

The French Communist Party also relied on the fact that during the war years it created quite strong armed formations in the Resistance movement and even tried to seize power in the country with the help of these formations after the Allied invasion of Normandy. Today, these detachments, although they were officially disbanded, clandestinely retained all their structures and weapons, waiting for the hour determined in the Kremlin.

Maurice Thorez, being a member of the Executive Committee of the Comintern since 1928, knew his business and unconditionally submitted to Moscow. Even at the beginning of the Second World War, he and his party, following instructions from the Kremlin, did everything possible to decompose the French army and society, making France easy prey for Hitler. Thorez himself, having deserted from the army, went underground, and after waiting for the German occupation, he called on French workers to voluntarily go to work in Germany to help the German people repel the "Anglo-French" aggression. After June 22, 1941, having received new instructions from Moscow, Thorez began to organize a resistance movement to help the Soviet people repel German aggression. Not a day, not an hour without an order.

After the war, the Communist Party, banned in 1939, became legal again, and Thorez himself became a member of the government, which created excellent opportunities for his activities. But all this required huge expenses. Not to mention the need to maintain a huge party apparatus, the publication of newspapers (thick and unprofitable, like "Humanite"), magazines, leaflets and proclamations, funds were needed to organize strikes, as the trade unions demanded compensation for wages for all workers for absenteeism, for organizing demonstrations, marches and rallies, when almost every participant had to pay 300 francs, all this together required millions of dollars annually. One spectacular jump on the rails of the famous Raymonda Dien, who stopped the train with ammunition, cost the party 10 thousand francs (Raymonda's fee) plus another 30 thousand francs fine for disrupting the railway schedule. And, of course, Moscow paid all this money.

In Paris, on Boulevard Haussmann, even the emigrants of the first wave purchased a building where the Eurobank founded by them was located. In this bank, in particular, the gold reserves of the White movement and the deposits of the ROVS were kept. In the euphoria of the victorious end of the Second World War and at the sight of the golden epaulettes on the shoulders of the officers of the Red Army, the decrepit leaders of the White movement and numerous emigre public organizations, stuffed through and through with Stalin's agents, confused by all kinds of homecoming committees and clever propaganda of the old agent of the GPU Count Ignatiev, set out to transfer this bank to the Soviet Union.

As for the "white" gold, there were no great difficulties with its transfer into the hands of Stalin: the owners of the gold are free to dispose of it themselves.

However, difficulties arose with the bank itself, since French law forbade the existence of a bank in the country that was not headed by a French citizen. However, this difficulty was easily overcome. Approximately 0.3% of the bank's capital was transferred to the French Communist Party, which singled out a person from its Central Committee who formally headed the bank. And 99.7% of the capital was divided between the State Bank and Vneshtorgbank of the USSR.

Using preferential interest, the Eurobank or the People's Bank, as it was sometimes called, quickly covered with its tentacles all the social structures of France available to it. In addition to the constant financing of the French Communist Party and all organizations involved in it, the bank began to open accounts for organizations that had nothing to do with the Communist Party. All kinds of trade union, women's, youth and sports organizations have opened their accounts in such a preferential bank. Even the General Confederation of Labor (VTK), created at private defense enterprises, fell into the networks of the Eurobank. In addition, all the embassies of the "fraternal countries" in France were required to keep money in the accounts of the Eurobank. The money of the Soviet intelligence residency in France was also stored there: the MGB and the GRU. The accounts were separate, because the eternal rivals did not like and did not want to deal with each other, even abroad.

In addition to bank accounts, the residents of the special services, acting under the guise of diplomatic passports, also kept large amounts of cash for emergency needs and paying for agents, which did not make sense to open bank accounts. These amounts amounted to about a million francs and were constantly replenished. In case of emergency, "golden" couriers were sent from Moscow - officers of the MGB or the GRU, who, under the guise of a diplomatic bag, carried cash in various foreign currencies. In those years - most often in pounds sterling.

This was the case in France, but similar, to a greater or lesser extent, happened in all other countries of the world that found themselves on the other side of the Iron Curtain. "People's banks" were born in London, Bern, Bonn, Vienna, Luxembourg, Tehran, creating a powerful banking structure of the CPSU (b).

The prospects were truly limitless. In addition to the possibility of completely safe and legal financing of the necessary parties, public organizations and people, it created the possibility of financial penetration into the international banking structure, participation in stock exchange games, investing in real estate, in the necessary branches of Western industry, and even control over certain key enterprises, their prosperity or bankruptcy as the need arises. Only strict instructions from Moscow somewhat fettered the creative thought of Soviet diplomats and intelligence officers working in the international financial field. Scandals of various scales constantly flared up behind an invisible facade. Then our residency in Brussels unexpectedly stole, hoping to hide in Europe. All were quickly caught and taken to Moscow for trial and reprisal.

Having managed to prove that they acted out of purely mercenary, and not political, motives, they got off with twenty-five-year terms. That "golden courier" Captain Sedakov is hiding with a suitcase containing 300 thousand pounds, giving rise to an exciting two-year odyssey with chases, gunfights, false passports and mysterious murders. The brave adventurer was nevertheless overtaken in Montevideo and taken to Moscow, where he was shot for "banditry".

Then it turns out that the branch of the "People's Bank" in Naples is completely outbid

Americans and actually turned into a branch of the CIA. The arrest of the perpetrators resulted in gigantic financial losses. But they had to go, mainly due to the fact that no one was in the habit of henceforth. Comrade, Stalin loved the order in affairs, and demanded an account from everyone to the penny, mercilessly punishing the guilty, regardless of their faces. All the secret legal proceedings and operational-search activities of the short post-war Stalinist period are full of money scandals. It turned out, by the way, that not one of the major residents of our intelligence service after the war was able to report on expenses in foreign currency and everyone was roughly punished. Years will pass, and these residents will write in their memoirs that they had some kind of ideological differences with their leadership, and even with Stalin himself. In fact, they were mainly accused of embezzlement.

So, the leader of the "Red Chapel", the famous Leopold Trepper, could not remember in any way: in which bank he had settled 80 thousand Swiss francs. He spent time in the Gulag, and only after the death of Stalin, being first in Poland, and then in Israel, he remembered the account number, for some reason forgetting that the money was government money. And the famous resident of Soviet intelligence in Switzerland, Rado, the legendary Rado, the hero of countless militants and television series, was captured after the war in Cairo and taken to Moscow, where it turned out that throughout the war he, Rado, received money to pay for the services of his unique agent Rudolf Rosler, calmly put this money into his current account, without giving the agent himself a penny. Rado escaped with a twenty-five-year term, only handing over everything to the last franc.

The multibillion-dollar annual spending on foreign operations and the multibillion-dollar spending on armaments involuntarily raised the question: where did the ruined Moscow get the money to live in such a big way? This issue was first raised by American newspapers in connection with a major scandal involving the United States Communist Party. The scandal erupted in 1949, when the US federal tax authorities found out that a small and insignificant group of people calling themselves the American Communist Party received 20 million dollars from nowhere, purchased large real estate, without paying a single cent to the federal treasury and the treasury of the three states.

The investigation that began quickly showed a chain stretching from New York to Moscow. National Secretary of the US Communist Party Gus Hall ("Gas Chamber", as some newspapers called him by the consonance of the pronunciation of his name and surname) was imprisoned for 5 years for fraud. At the same time, an episode surfaced of how Gus Hall evaded conscription during the war years by fleeing to Mexico. This fact, along with the recognition by the Communists of the fact that they received money from the main potential adversary of the United States on the world stage, led to a debate as to whether the Communists should be considered "agents of a foreign state" with all the ensuing consequences, including mandatory registration with the police. Truly limitless American democracy does not forgive its citizens for only one thing - tax evasion. The Supreme Court recognized the right of the communists to exist, obliging them only henceforth to be more careful with the money coming from abroad.

As a result, the communists found themselves under tight financial control of the government. All this was accompanied by the wild screeching of Soviet newspapers about the "persecution of American communists", "Rampant fascism in the USA", "about the witch hunt", "about the horrors of McCarthyism" (by the name of Senator McCarthy, chairman of the US Congressional Commission of Inquiry investigating the financial and political machinations of the Communist Party) was connected precisely with this scandal. The American communists had to deliver money according to all the rules for the delivery of alcohol during the years of the "dry" law in the United States. Couriers were caught, new high-profile scandals began with the expulsion of Soviet diplomats, with the arrest of party functionaries, with the closure of the completely unprofitable communist newspaper Daily Worker, whose circulation was sometimes printed and distributed exclusively in the USSR and "fraternal countries". Gradually it became clear how much Moscow spends annually on such nonsense and, naturally, the question surfaced: where does it get this money?

There was vague information about the Nazi gold seized by Stalin's intelligence after the war. The former Hitlerite General Gehlen, who during the war years headed the "Eastern" department of the Abwehr, giving secret testimony to the American commission of inquiry, made a sensational statement, supported by supposedly irrefutable evidence, the essence of which was that Deputy Fuhrer for the party Martin Bormann, being an agent of the Comintern, transmitted after the war, all the keys to the gold of the Nazi Party were given to Stalin, and he calmly fled to Moscow, where he currently lives, laughing at the death sentence handed down to him in absentia by the Nuremberg Tribunal.

It is possible that all of this was true, as Gehlen assured the Americans, but this did not make much of an impression, mainly because the Nazi gold, welded from the gold crowns and wedding rings of Jews tortured in concentration camps, was, as they say, the cat cried. Already by the middle of 1942, as American intelligence correctly reported, Hitler was financially bankrupt, and the gold that Stalin allegedly got was barely enough for half a year of global financial transactions that Moscow conducted with such ease.

In 1950, the famous "numismatic" scandal erupted. Among the numismatists of Europe, gold Franco-Spanish pistoles and French louis were in special demand - coins minted in Spain and France in a relatively short period of the first half of the 17th century. The price of each coin according to the catalog was approximately 30-50 thousand dollars, while the price of gold contained in the coin did not exceed 200 dollars. Finding a single or double pistol in good condition was considered a numismatist's great luck. And suddenly, these coins began to appear in different countries in special stores, at auctions and on the "black market" in such quantities that soon their catalog price went down sharply, barely staying somewhere at the turn of \$ 800. The coins that appeared on the market were selectively subjected to examination. All turned out to be fake. Along the way, it turned out that two surviving machines for minting these coins were kept in the Louvre, and in 1940 they were taken by the Germans to Berlin, where they fell into the hands of Moscow in 1945.

Having waited with proud silence for the period of the greatest intensity of passions, Moscow, as usual, declared all this "hype" vile slander and "another unbridled anti-Soviet campaign." No one expected another answer, although this was by no means the first time that the "hand of Moscow" acted as a counterfeiter. Back in the heroic Leninist times, the first attempt was made to set up the production of counterfeit five- and ten-pound notes "to undermine the economic might of imperialism." Then this attempt, carried out at a purely amateur level due to a lack of experienced specialists, failed miserably and cost a lot, leading to the seizure and confiscation of very important accounts of the party in Western banks.

But if in the time of Lenin such an action had a purely sabotage value, then for Stalin it quickly began to acquire vital significance. The currency was constantly needed, but it was always in short supply. Therefore, founded in the time of Lenin, the secret laboratory in the bowels of the NKVD continued to operate, constantly improving and acquiring highly qualified specialists. It is known that Hitler worked in the same direction, but with much less success. Counterfeit German-made pounds were quickly recognized and withdrawn from circulation. At the peak of Soviet-German friendship in 1939-1940, Stalin even sent his counterfeiting experts to Hitler to help his hapless friend "undermine the economic power of imperialism."

In the post-war years, the secret department of the NKVD-MTB already had at its disposal the genuine clichés of all Western currencies and the technological process was fully known

their manufacture. But, to the credit of Comrade Stalin, it must be said that he did not dare to widely use the potential capabilities of the secret laboratory. The old scandals made Stalin, who was cautious by nature, even more cautious. Several major revelations in the early 1950s of attempts to sell counterfeit dollar bills totaling approximately \$500 million are more likely to be international counterfeiting organizations, but served as a good lesson for Moscow.[28]

All these events were closely monitored by Western financial and counterintelligence agencies. All right, they admitted, Moscow made a little over \$700 million from counterfeit French coins.

If there is a share of Moscow in the sale of counterfeit banknotes, it is very small and does not exceed a couple of million dollars a year. All this is pennies. The USSR does not conduct virtually any foreign trade. The state monetary unit, not convertible and purely conditional, is cut off from the international monetary system. What is the basis of the power of the communist empire?

And here it should be noted that if the United States was very poorly known in the USSR in those years, constantly flying into various scandalous stories due to elementary ignorance of the simplest foundations of American legislation, then the United States knew the Soviet Union, to put it mildly, no better. Throughout the pre-war years, American political science carefully studied Germany, Japan, and its old mother, England. Neither American diplomacy nor American intelligence made any serious attempts to penetrate that pompously majestic facade, decorated with sickles, hammers and sheaves of wheat, which was supposed to represent the state created by Stalin. A huge army of Sovietologists had not yet been born, and countless scientific centers for studying all aspects of Soviet life and the motivations for Soviet foreign and domestic policy had not yet hummed with computers. Emigration had not yet poured in crowds from the USSR, carrying invaluable information, and therefore Moscow, shining with ruby stars, remained a mystery.

The first defectors either kept deathly silence, trembling with fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones, and if they tried to speak, no one listened to them. It was not up to them. The direct confrontation with Stalin had not yet begun. On the contrary, he was fulfilling his part of the global American plan, paving a wide road for the future offensive of the dollar with millions of corpses.

The empire that Comrade Stalin built was unique for its time, and therefore seemed an unsolvable riddle for everyone who lived outside the Soviet Union, even for the "brotherly" countries. It was a medieval enclave, interspersed by a quirk of history and fate over a sixth of the world's landmass in the twentieth century. According to the administrative structure of the USSR, it was almost no different from the despotism of antiquity with unlimited power in the capital and satraps in the provinces. The basis of the country's economy, as elsewhere, was the mining industry, served exclusively by prisoners, whose number by 1953 was approximately 12 million people. The GULAG, as Solzhenitsyn correctly noted, was equal in size to an average European state in terms of the size of its "population", providing the country with all the necessary raw materials, including gold, and practically free of charge. The agrarian sector of the empire was provided by a multi-million army of collective farmers, reduced below the level of serfs of the old times of Russian absolutism. The peasants did not have passports, they did not have the right to leave their villages without special permission from the local "landowner" - the chairman (even to the market), they actually received nothing for their work, except for the famous "workday sticks", while serving as a reserve to replenish the Gulag and the army. This was how the country was provided with food and other agricultural products, in fact, also free of charge.

Prisoners worked in construction work in all zero and initial cycles, making up 60% of the total number of construction workers, exceeding even the share of army construction battalions, representing another type of slave labor. Prisoners also worked in manufacturing and transport, but their proportion was relatively low. However, "free" workers, even highly qualified, received a beggarly wage, dragging out a semi-animal existence, at the same time risking being on the other side of the barbed wire for the slightest offense. Eight million men were under arms in peacetime armed forces.

So there was a people dragged through the meat grinders of endless terror and the most terrible war in the history of mankind.

So:

12 million in the Gulag

8 million in the army

30 million in collective farms,

40 million in industry...

And all the slaves are about the same level. Prisoners could be shot with impunity, starved, killed by overwork. They had no rights, and even their very existence, despite the number, was a state secret, which was forbidden even to speak aloud.

And even more so, it was forbidden to speak aloud about the army, except that it was "invincible and legendary." But the military had even less rights than the prisoners. Without blinking an eye, it was possible to carry out full-scale tests of an atomic explosion on living soldiers, and then abandon the survivors without any medical care, taking from them, however, the strictest non-disclosure receipt. Even as they died of radiation sickness, they were afraid to tell the bewildered doctors what had happened to them.

There was nothing worse than returning from the army as an invalid. Everyone still remembered well the multi-million army of disabled people immediately after the war. Ringing with numerous orders and medals, they gathered in large cities around markets and train stations, asking for alms or trying to earn some money to the best of their ability. All of these were mostly young guys under the age of 30. Literally in one day they all disappeared. Coordinated raids were carried out in all cities. All the legless and armless were left in cars and taken away. And there were several million of them. Where do they all go? Not only to say, but also to think about it was not supposed to. Any general, or even a marshal, could disappear in the same way, and no one had the right to remember him. If during the war years they were beaten by mortal combat and urinated on the head of General of the Army Meretskov, then after the war they did the same with no less enthusiasm with Marshal Novikov, General Telegin, Marshal Yakovlev and many others.

You could do whatever you wanted with the peasants. They were not entitled to any pensions or benefits, but in case of disability they were allowed to feed from a tiny

personal plot, which, by the way, could be taken away at any moment, the house demolished with a bulldozer, and either planted or thrown out to die somewhere in an open field. The technique has long been worked out.

Nobody stood on ceremony with the workers, on behalf of whom, as the "hegemonic class", all the crimes were committed. The workers had no means of fighting for their rights. For the very word "strike" uttered aloud, it was quite possible to pay with your life. Labor safety was at a primitive level, work was worn out, working conditions were sometimes hard labor, equipment was old and worn out, living conditions were simply unthinkable, so that a very small percentage of workers even lived up to their beggarly pension. The country lived in indescribable poverty. Men wore military uniforms and quilted jackets, women of thirty already looked like old women in scarves and felt boots. A man in a suit was rightly considered either a big boss, or a spy, or a big criminal. A fashionably dressed woman, if she was not the wife or mistress of some major functionary, risked getting into the zone for "kowtowing to Western fashion."

In a somewhat better position was the few technical intelligentsia, released from prisons and sharashkas, hung with laureate medals for designing and creating models of new weapons during the war years and now. She was paid better and fed better, creating even for PhDs and colonels a network of so-called limited stores with a much better selection of goods than for the common people, thus giving them a sweet sense of their own privileged position and temporarily forget about their own complete slavery. lawlessness.

Thus, the most superficial analysis easily revealed the primitive scheme of a slave-owning state, where the entire national income was appropriated and distributed at its own discretion by Stalin himself and his all-powerful nomenklatura.

The nomenklatura emerged from the war even more powerful than it had been. During the war years, she put on the highest insignia of military distinction, which made it possible for her to even more realize her importance in the state, which was considered a state of a "new type", although it was just as archaic as the state of Urartu. And if such a state could exist at all, it was only because it was cemented at all seams precisely by the nomenklatura, which used as the only mechanism of executive power the huge apparatus of the secret police, again renamed after the war from the NKVD to the MGB. But this did not change the essence of the matter. The secret political police controlled every breath of the gigantic concentration camp from the distant Gulag camps to the Kremlin offices. Merged with its top with the heart of the nomenklatura, the secret police stretched its tentacles across all continents, gradually becoming the sword, shield and flesh of the nomenklatura.

The nomenklatura, burdened with gold epaulettes and the highest military awards, was well aware of the strength of its dominant position in the occupied country, its capabilities and limitless prospects. She was well aware that the Bolshevik Party, which this nomenklatura represented, had already grown together with the concept of "state", and the very concept of "state" had long become synonymous with the party. That is why it, the nomenklatura, has become invincible and indestructible, sincerely considering all state property, including the population, as its own, belonging to it by birthright.

And the nomenklatura no longer needed such a leader as Stalin.

Moreover, he interfered with her, not allowing her to unfold in all the brilliance of improvisation.

He interfered, because he constantly made people think about personal safety, about responsibility, limiting appetites and keeping them almost around the clock at their workplaces in their offices. And at any moment, people with blue bands on their caps could burst into this office, beat him half to death, drag him by his feet into the yard, throw him into a car and shoot him in some basement that same evening. All this was unnerving, giving rise to dreams of a new, "own" leader. But, as you know, dreams never come true on their own, requiring hard and risky work for their implementation.

The French newspaper Le Monde once published a cartoon, wanting to show readers the structure of government in the Soviet Union. The caricature depicted Stalin, who had small Stalins peeking out of each pocket, from the lapels of his uniform, from the tops of his boots. It was true, but a greatly simplified truth. Little Stalins rapidly united, creating something much more powerful than the "great leader of all peoples." The nomenklatura united in its own state with very clear and strictly guarded borders.

This process was so obvious that even the multi-volume "History of the CPSU" could not ignore it. "In 1946, the nomenclature of the positions of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks was developed and approved," the official history of the party reports dryly. - Planning, systematic study and verification of their political and business qualities were introduced into work with leading cadres, a reserve was created for promotion and a strict procedure was ensured in the appointment and dismissal of nomenclature workers. The nomenclature of positions of the Central Committee of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, regional committees, regional committees, city committees and district committees was expanded. What official history does not report is the new round of deadly struggle that unfolded between the nomenklatura and Stalin, immediately after the last volleys of the Second World War fell silent.

The difference with the previous stages of the struggle was only that the nomenklatura became more powerful, and Stalin strongly surrendered, gradually falling into a state of complete insanity and becoming easy prey for the wolves and jackals surrounding him.

Even during the war, the nomenklatura received several signals that the leader was weakening. After the Germans took the Mga station near Leningrad, which allowed the enemy to close the encirclement around the city, everyone believed that Voroshilov's song had been sung. The piquancy of the situation was not only in his wildly mediocre command, but in the fact that after the capture of Mga, Voroshilov, losing his head with fear, did not report this to Moscow, and Stalin learned about another military disaster from the message of the German radio. Voroshilov himself was sure that he would be shot or turned into camp dust, which, according to the laws of wartime, would be quite fair. The execution of the entire command of the Western Front, headed by General of the Army Pavlov, was still very fresh in everyone's memory. But nothing of the sort happened. Voroshilov escaped with a slight fright.

The nomenklatura noted this circumstance as the first step towards their own complete irresponsibility, which was their brightest dream.

Even more characteristic was the story of Zhdanov. Documents constantly laying on the table of Stalin, exposing his closest satrap in all mortal sins. An alcoholic, drinks from morning to evening, does not do anything. Traitor. Negotiated with the Germans about the surrender of the city. He turned the entire Leningrad party organization against Stalin, dreaming of separating the Leningrad Region from the USSR, creating an independent state on the basis of the region and becoming its leader. In fulfillment of this plan in Leningrad, for every portrait of Comrade Stalin, there are four portraits of Zhdanov himself.

Thief. Back in the years of the annexation of the Baltic States, he appropriated and transferred to Western (Scandinavian) banks about 400 thousand pounds sterling. During the siege of Leningrad

a team specially created by him ransacked empty houses, collecting in the cellars of Smolny everything of at least some value, not disdaining even wedding rings torn from the fingers of old women who had died of starvation. Currently, these valuables worth about 7 million rubles are stored in caches at three dachas and with a number of trusted persons.

The leader remained silent, taking no action. True, after the unexpected death of Zhdanov, which was overgrown with legends precisely because this information was known to many, some commissions were swarming in the dachas and in the hunting lodges of the deceased, something was taken out on covered army trucks, and during the famous "Leningrad affairs", during which the entire former Zhdanov team was shot, in addition to other charges, everyone was charged with "moral decline in the form of a desire for personal enrichment". Handfuls of gold coins, diamonds, jewelry and ancient orders were displayed at the trial. Thus, responsibility was as carefully hierarchized as all life in the country. What could be forgiven to Zhdanov was not forgiven to the nomenklatura of a lower level. And that didn't suit her.

It was perfectly clear to Stalin that the nomenklatura, like the underground millionaire Koreiko, was enthusiastically waiting for better times, in advance, along with the consolidation of their own power, accumulating material wealth in order to plunge into the luxury of a real noble life of the ruling class, which has unlimited possibilities and unlimited claims. And, of course, it was clear that everyone was waiting with hope for the moment when the tiger eyes of the leader of all peoples would close forever. Realizing that he could be killed at any moment, Stalin sometimes fell into indecision, which gave way to bouts of madness, making it impossible to develop a clear and effective counter-fight strategy.

The Stalinist nomenklatura, already suffocating and languishing within the limits into which it was driven by a ferocious and bloodthirsty leader, was, nevertheless, purely Stalinist. Torn apart by eternal intrigues and mutual denunciations, she herself provided Stalin with excellent opportunities for victory in this new round of struggle. And maybe if the leader were younger, he would again, if he had not won, then he would not have lost, as happened in 1937. But Stalin was already too old and lost his former brilliance as an unsurpassed master of party intrigue.

And the denunciations continued to come.

Molotov. While still in Germany in 1939, he received a large bribe from the Nazi government, which he deposited in a secret account in a Swiss bank. During the war years, he repeatedly received large bribes from the allies, which he placed in a number of banks in the USA and England. Through his wife, he was connected with the all-powerful Jewish financial circles, which he was recruited during a train trip from New York to Washington, giving the obligation to "change" the existing system in the USSR in favor of world capital.

Beria. Even in his youth, in the era of wild confiscations and red terror, he stole untold wealth, which he then sent abroad. His craving for luxury and jewelry not only did not fade with time, but became even more acute. During the reign of terror, having become the head of the NKVD after Yezhov was eliminated, he uncontrollably appropriated the property confiscated from millions of victims, not disdaining to receive money for it through a network of commission shops. Constantly having access to foreign countries, maintaining constant contact with the enemy during the war, he managed to transfer large values in Western currency to secret accounts in a Swiss bank and in the Royal Bank of Sweden.

In 1951, he had a secret meeting in Sukhumi with a resident of British intelligence, in which he transparently hinted at imminent changes in the Soviet Union and a complete change of leadership.

And then a stream of similar denunciations: Bulganin, Malenkov, Mikoyan, Khrushchev, Voroshilov, Vyshinsky... This is the highest echelon. And just below something completely unimaginable is already happening.

"Top secret.

Party Control Commission under the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks.

State importance. special folder...

On June 26, 1948, at 01:30, a Soviet military train No B-640-07 was sent to the Wittenberg railway station (in the Soviet zone of occupation of Germany) with the task of loading and exporting technical equipment to the territory of the USSR under the agreement on post-war reparations. A special wagon was attached to the echelon, guarded by Smersh officers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Stepanov Ivan Gerasimovich, seconded from Moscow. According to a secret consignment note held by Lieutenant Colonel Stepanov, trophy cases from the local archives of the Nazi Party and the Gestapo were loaded into the special wagon.

However, we managed to obtain irrefutable evidence that 45 (forty-five) galvanized boxes with items made of precious metals, gold scrap, coins, gold and platinum bullion were loaded into the car without specifying the address of the recipient in the USSR ...

The echelon was supposed to follow the usual route through Warsaw and Brest, then on to Moscow. On July 29, at 2 am, the train arrived at the Brest border station, where, when checking the train, the military commandant of the station, Major of the Border Troops Sukhorukov, revealed the disappearance of the special wagon along with the guards.

An inspection carried out along the train line showed that the specified car was no longer at the Frankfurt-on-Oder station on the border with Poland. All attempts to find out the details of the disappearance of the special car have not yet yielded results, since the authorities do not assist in the investigation..."

At the bottom is Shkiryatov's clumsy signature, and even lower is Stalin's resolution: "What do you mean, they don't help?! Comrade Abakumov! Arrest para. Stepanov and report!

"On your ref. No. 1884-48B of September 14, 1948

Secret. In the Central Control Commission under the Central Committee of the CPSU (b)

Comrade Shkiryatov M.F.

Lieutenant Colonel Stepanov Ivan Gerasimovich is not among the personnel of the Ministry ... "

"Owls. Secret. Ministry of State Security.

State Importance.

Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Marshal of the USSR (as in the text - I. B.) May 15

1949 T. L. P. Beria

The International Department of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks through the Administration of the Central Committee in February of this year, using illegal agents, opened a number of large accounts in Swiss banks with fictitious pseudonyms. To open deposits, gold, precious stones and platinum were used, exported from the USSR, Germany and Czechoslovakia with cargoes specially designated as gratuitous aid to the communist parties of the countries

Eastern Europe... The surnames-pseudonyms of the account holders have been established.

Klimov Vladlen Nikolaevich - 800 thousand Swiss francs.

Nikolaev Ivan Fedorovich - 500 thousand Swiss francs.

(And then seven more false names) ... As the check showed, all the listed persons are employees of the Central Control Commission under the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks ...

Klimov Vladlen Nikolaevich is the pseudonym of Comrade. Shkiryatov Matvey Fedorovich..." Signature: V. Dekanozov. Beria's note: "Report to the Politburo."

What happened next is unknown, but it is quite obvious that the party and the state security exchanged heroic blows more than once or twice, stealing everything that was badly lying with the same rapture. And at the same time they "mortgaged" each other without any remorse, appealing to Stalin with a feeling of the most sincere indignation, as if emphasizing their own impeccable honesty.

But that wasn't even the point. The security agencies, forgetting that they are just a combat detachment of the CPSU (b), suddenly stood in direct opposition to their own party, brazenly demonstrating complete independence and a desire to act completely independently. It seemed that in the USSR, where the entire political system was based on a one-party system, two political parties suddenly formed, both of the extreme left and defiantly hostile to each other. The more dynamic and better organized security agencies seemed to have a good chance of subjugating the party, and then either completely destroy it or dissolve it into themselves.

It was no longer worth anything for the Chekists to grab some secretary of the district committee, shake foreign currency out of his safe, or even something more interesting, take him away, knock out any testimony, and, putting this testimony on Stalin's table, inflict a new crushing blow on his competitors. hit. Two powerful clans - the party and the Chekist nomenklatura - openly fought for unlimited power in the country, feverishly transporting to the West and turning into currency everything that was possible - in case of their defeat.

They say that Stalin made only two mistakes during the war years: he showed Europe to his nomenklatura and he showed Europe his nomenclature. Europe shied away in horror, but the nomenklatura, on the contrary, quickly sensing the benefits and, realizing in what black body its beloved leader had kept it all these years, began to strive to the west, independently punching the first holes in the Iron Curtain, which was already staggering and vibrating under the onslaught of the dollar on the other side. The greedy and corrupt partocracy, which had already plundered the richest country and appropriated the fruits of the hard labor of the people exterminated by it, rushed to a higher level of luxury. She was already cramped on one-sixth of the land. She wanted to spend time on the Cote d'Azur of France, on the beaches of Italy, in the resorts of Miami, in luxurious villas and hotels under the multi-colored glitter of advertising and the soft sound of the Mediterranean surf. She wanted Western service and Western comfort, which even in the West is not available to everyone, which made it even more desirable and attractive. That is why the partyocracy looked with greed at the 12,000 tons of gold that constituted the state gold reserves of the USSR[29] accumulated by Stalin at the cost of the lives of millions of prisoners and intended for the implementation of his global

plans.

Yes, this gold belongs to the state. But aren't the party and the state one and the same thing? This means that this is the gold of the party, and only the party can dispose of it. She looked with lust at the richest bowels of the country, overflowing with oil and other precious raw materials so valued in the West, mentally counting it into dollars and pounds sterling. In the already formed "Through the Looking Glass" - countries where the entire USSR was considered nothing more than

source of the world's cheapest labor force and gratuitous cannon fodder, the nomenklatura sincerely began to regard all national wealth, including the population, as their private property. This is what the fight was about. It can be said without exaggeration that as soon as the nomenclature took shape in the state, in it, as in any young state, a civil war broke out for power and the right to dispose of wealth.

Many believe that Stalin himself ignited a civil war in the nomenklatura, preparing its next demonstrative pogrom. Most likely, this is true, but this time the leader clearly overestimated his strength, preparing another massacre according to the old scheme of 1937. In cases of this kind, repetition is deadly. The nomenklatura introduced an original innovation into the plan of the leader, which had not been used before. A black smoke screen of anti-Semitism hung over the country, closing the battlefield for a while. And when the veil dissipated, Stalin was already dead, the state security was destroyed, its leadership, headed by Beria, was ruthlessly shot, and the party, like a fairy-tale hero, jumped out of the boiling cauldron even stronger and rejuvenated, defiantly discarding its old name of the CPSU (b) and inventing a new one - the CPSU.[30]

Having taken a breath after such a heavy victory in the course of almost twenty years of war, the party nomenklatura began to prepare for a new life, which they had been dreaming of for all recent years. The most insignificant, cowardly and accommodating of all the members of the former Stalinist Politburo, Nikita Khrushchev, whom the nomenklatura saw as a mere puppet, completely obedient to its will, was nominated for the role of the new leader of the party and state. It was the same Khrushchev who, on Stalin's orders, sweating and breathing heavily, danced the hopak right at the meetings of the Politburo, and everyone laughed and clapped their hands to the beat. Stalin himself laughed to tears.

However, the hope that Khrushchev would just as obediently dance to the tune of the nomenklatura did not come true. Entering into the taste of unlimited power, relying on the army, Khrushchev not only did not realize the rosy dreams of the nomenclature, but even made an attempt to further infringe on its rights. However, he did the main thing, that he wanted the nomenklatura. From now on, a "sacred" treaty was concluded that guaranteed the personal safety and freedom of the citizens of the "Through the Looking Glass", their actual lack of jurisdiction in the face of the law, opening the way to exactly the chaos that the nomenklatura was striving for. And it should be noted that this agreement was never and under no circumstances violated until August 1991, when several top nomenclature officials ended up in prison, giving them the opportunity to dissolve the rest.

Even the most notorious figures of the Stalin era were quietly (or with little noise, like Molotov, Malenkov and Kaganovich) retired, continuing to enjoy all the benefits and privileges of their former position. Even the publicity of Stalin's nightmarish crimes did not in the least affect the status of the late dictator's family, which continues to be listed in the nomenklatura of the Central Committee and enjoy all the benefits that follow from this.

The only exception was Stalin's son, Vasily. Having become a lieutenant general at the age of 25, from childhood he was surrounded by sycophants and lackeys, he really imagined himself to be the crown prince and behaved as such. Once in the crucible of a coup d'état, he spoke openly about the murder of his father, calling the new leaders usurpers of power, which, in his opinion, after the death of his father should have been given to him by virtue of the old dynastic traditions. He was so tired of everyone with his screams that he had to be arrested and given 8 years, accused of falsely denouncing Air Marshal Novikov. Soon, however, he was released, issued a general's pension and settled in Kazan, where six months later he was found dead in his own bed. Apparently, he continued to say a lot of superfluous things.

Stalin's daughter, Svetlana, mindful of the fate of her brother, chose to flee abroad, where, surrounded by television cameras, she publicly burned a Soviet passport, and settled in the United States. She tracked down and sued Stalin's account in a Swiss bank, wrote several books, vividly showing the bestial essence of her father and the entire communist system, went bankrupt in the stock market and unexpectedly returned to the USSR again. Although by that time there were many people in the camps for reading and distributing her books, Svetlana herself was accepted as a princess of the blood: she immediately received a personal pension, an apartment, a car with a driver, and so on. A citizen of "Through the Looking Glass" receives all his rights for life and is never deprived of citizenship. However, even the privileged life in the USSR could not be compared with the modest life in the USA, to which Svetlana was already accustomed. Just as suddenly, she left. Nobody interfered. The blood princess can do anything. This is exactly what the nomenklatura dreamed of, liquidating her father ...

But Khrushchev clearly did not justify the hopes placed on him. Having returned home and partially rehabilitated millions of prisoners from Stalin's camps, publicly declaring to the whole world about Stalin's crimes against the nomenklatura and finally returning to the good old Leninist norms of party life, Khrushchev, for his part, tried to throw his own bridle on the nomenklatura, mercilessly displacing, moving, removing and bringing leaders of all levels closer, and again creating a nervous atmosphere in Through the Looking Glass. Having no experience in either foreign or domestic politics, he almost unleashed a third world war, provoking the Cuban Missile Crisis, split the world communist empire, quarreled with Mao Tse-tung, threw Stalin out of the mausoleum and, to top it all, threatened the nomenklatura, which will close all special distributors and transfer all "Through the Looking Glass" to general service through a regular distribution network.

The enraged nomenklatura made an attempt to overthrow such a dashing leader as early as 1958, when Khrushchev was saved only by the devotion of Marshal Zhukov, whose authority with the state security that had not yet recovered from the defeat of 1954 was indisputable. Along the way, it turned out that the state ship, whose furnaces had ceased to receive millions of new victims in the form of fuel, was still moving by inertia, threatening to stop at any moment. Deprived of free labor, mines and mines threatened to stop. Having finally received passports, collective farmers fled from the villages, crowding the cities and putting the country's agriculture on the brink of disaster.

Everyone was waiting for some decisive action, but they received the famous Khrushchev party program, unforgettable in its cynicism, which opened with the words: "The current generation of Soviet people will live under communism!", which they promised to fully build by 1980. The catastrophic crop failures that followed forced Khrushchev to start spending the gold accumulated by Stalin, the same gold that the nomenklatura was greedy for, on American grain.

Khrushchev himself went to America, from where he returned shocked, telling Mikoyan: "They have already built communism." Mikoyan, who believed that he had built communism on his vast estate long ago, was not very surprised, and only after visiting the United States personally did he make sure that he lives at the level of the average American farmer. This was depressing, making one feverishly think about foreign exchange earnings, since the impotence of the circumcised Khrushchev ruble was evident even at such a high level of the post-Stalinist nomenklatura.

The mood of the nomenklatura was no better. Having deceived the people for years, for the first time she felt she had been deceived too. Having received the opportunity to freely travel abroad, the nomenklatura instantly lost the last fig-leaves of Marxism-Leninism, which still covered its greedy essence, and began frankly pasting over with dollars.

To the great surprise of the inhabitants of large cities, in the early 60s, a network of Beryozka stores appeared, selling scarce and foreign goods for hard Western currency. This was all the more surprising because, with a very clear ideological definition of the United States and its allies as the main potential enemy in the coming war and a very real enemy in the cold war, Beryozka stores openly traded precisely with the money of a potential enemy. For those who could see, this meant the beginning of the occupation.

Large dollar detachments have already broken through the "Iron Curtain" and scattered across the country, undermining the already frail economy, and most importantly, destroying the corpse of an already actually dead ideology.

"Secret.

Management of the Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU 01.27.1963 In the Central Committee of the Republican Communist Parties,

January 27, 1963 In the Central Committee of the Republican Communist Parties, in the regional committees and regional committees of the CPSU.

On the expenditure of foreign exchange funds received from the sale of goods through the Beryozka chain of stores.

According to the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU of November 10, 1962, funds in foreign currency received as a result of the sale of high-demand goods through the Beryozka retail chain are distributed as follows:

1. 50% of the amounts received are transferred to the disposal of the Department of Management of the Central Committee of the CPSU after a mandatory monthly check of receipts by a special financial commission under the Central Committee of the CPSU.
2. The remaining 50% go to the disposal of the regional and regional committees of the CPSU, where they are spent with a mandatory monthly report in the prescribed form.

Note: The Central Committee of the CPSU recommends using foreign currency funds received through the Beryozka trading network as follows:

1. 30% - for the development of priority industries of the region (territory).
2. 40% - for the creation of the currency fund of the region (territory) in the general reserve fund.
3. 30% - for the creation of an incentive fund that provides for partial payment of wages (see Appendix 1) to the leadership of party committees (up to and including secretaries of district committees) with differentiation by position; one-time bonuses for trips abroad; and at the discretion of the first secretary of the regional committee (krai committee) with mandatory monthly reporting.

Khrushchev's note:

"Isn't 30% a lot for promotion?"

The figure is crossed out and forwarded to 10, and then to 15%. Apparently, there was a "sharp" exchange of views, principled in a party way.

Dollars stirred up the country. The sharp increase in the number of foreign tourists required an equally sharp increase in the number of employees of the KGB and related organizations, because not a single foreigner was supposed to be left unattended on the territory of the USSR. However, the KGB, which had not yet regained its former strength, was not able to control even large cities, not to mention the entire country.

As a result, the main enemy of the existing regime in the country, its own people, who imagined themselves completely free in the wake of some internal political thaw, joined in the acquisition of the currency. This was a dangerous illusion from which the population had to be quickly and decisively weaned. Indeed, it was an illusion. The people still had no rights and lived in the full power of party and police arbitrariness. Barbed wire borders reliably fenced him off from the outside world, the passport system attached him to his place of residence, the real standard of living, although somewhat increased since Stalin's time, was still terribly low, and the fact that the nomenklatura began to constantly roll to the west further aggravated the situation of ordinary people. Seeing the real life of Western countries, the nomenklatura, first of all, was horrified that this would become known to the population of the country and made great efforts and considerable funds so that information about life abroad would in no way become the property of the broad masses of the robbed people.

The great information war, which began under Stalin, when listening to broadcasts from Western radio stations was given 10 years in camps, continued, taking on new, sometimes very bizarre forms.

Any manifestations of popular protest were suppressed in the most merciless way. Workers' demonstrations in Novocherkassk, Vorkuta, Tbilisi and many other cities of the country were mercilessly shot down, with incredible ease to pass death sentences for any offenses where even remotely a desire to forcibly overthrow the existing regime could be seen.

Tank caterpillars crushed popular uprisings in Hungary, Germany and Poland... And suddenly it turns out that this very people, with whom the Bolsheviks had been tormented since 1917, weaning them from human life, fooling them, exterminating them by the millions, still did not lose their taste for human life and is constantly drawn to it. Including dollars.

People began to appear in multitudes, mainly young people, whom the press immediately dubbed "farmers" and "foreign exchangers." Fearlessly making unauthorized contacts with Western tourists, ignoring the risk of a possible accusation of espionage, which was as easy as shelling pears, these obscure filibusters of the incessant war of the communists with their own people were the first to spread Western ideology around the country in the form of currency and foreign consumer goods. They declared a merciless war. The guides of Intourist, which had long been turned into a branch of the security service, in front of the astonished Western tourists, fearlessly rushed hand-to-hand at the black marketers, trying to twist them and send them to the police. Ugly fights broke out, sometimes with a tragic outcome. After one of these incidents, twenty-year-old Igor Kuzmin was arrested, dragged through a show trial and shot.

But the first "currency" process, which went down in history as the "Rokotov and Faibishchenko" process, had an even greater public outcry. These two young men (the first was about forty, the second was twenty-five) were arrested for buying dollars from tourists. Being very outstanding people in their field, Rokotov and Faibishchenko in just two years earned about 300 thousand dollars and one and a half million Soviet rubles, constantly increasing their fortune with a thoughtful turnover. At the moment when both were arrested, the corresponding article of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR provided for only 5 years in prison for illegal currency transactions. This article came from Stalin's times, when no one, except for the highest representatives of the nomenklatura, could even think of doing such a trade, and the nomenklatura decided, just in case, to protect itself. However, now the indignation of the nomenklatura knew no bounds.

The completely simple method by which the arrested guys earned their dollars shocked them, forcing them to think with horror that just like that, easily, the entire Soviet people

quit working for his own party and will work for himself with incredible efficiency. And material independence is always political independence, as Ilyich warned about in his brilliant articles on the grain monopoly. The people must receive their ration of bread only from the hands of the Party and kiss this hand for not letting them die of hunger.

Although even Soviet justice recognized that "the law has no retroactive force", and the arrested were already presented with an article providing for five years of imprisonment as a charge, right in the midst of the investigation, the article was changed first to 8, and then to 15 years of imprisonment and twice again presented to the arrested. But this was also considered insufficient. When the investigation was already coming to an end, the article was redone again, making it a firing squad. And both unfortunate guys were shot. Such arbitrariness, from whatever point of view you look at it, occurred at the height of the Khrushchev thaw, perfectly demonstrating the ongoing processes in the Kremlin.

One after another, new laws stamped by the Supreme Council "On criminal liability for illegal currency transactions", "On liability for minor currency transactions", "On increased liability for illegal storage of currency" fell down. Thus, the legal storage of currency became only in the hands of the nomenklatura. Although all these new laws said something about "illegal transactions", they boiled down to a simple prohibition of simply holding foreign currency. During any searches, the currency found was quoted much higher than various spy attributes such as ciphers and radio stations, emphasizing the criminal's double-handedness, and was immediately subject to confiscation, as a rule, along with all other property. A simple man in the street, who received, say, from some relative, 10 dollars in a letter, and ventured to poke his nose into Beryozka with this money, immediately lingered there, since it was ridiculously easy to distinguish a Soviet citizen from a foreigner, the money was taken away, a protocol was drawn up, oh the criminal fact was reported to the work of the poor fellow, and he himself, if he was finally allowed to go home, was sincerely glad that he got off cheaply.

And in order to finally put everything in its place, in the same years the famous law "On the fight against parasites" was adopted, which declared all citizens of the country who did not want to work for the state and were subject to criminal liability for this. This law can be considered the pearl of Soviet jurisprudence, which gave the nomenklatura exceptional legal opportunities to deal with all those who were objectionable.

Suffice it to recall that one of the first under this law was the poet Joseph Brodsky, the future Nobel Prize winner in literature, whose poems did not please the instructor of the district party committee. In the future, the objectionable was expelled from work, not taken anywhere, and then declared a parasite and, on a "legal" basis, was sent either to prison or to exile. At the same time, private greenhouses of peasants were destroyed in the villages, livestock were again taken away, and even allowed ones.

Stalin's personal plots, sowing the entire space of the country with corn, since it was in this culture that Khrushchev saw the basis of the power of the United States. Nikita Khrushchev, who was never ashamed, but, on the contrary, in every possible way emphasized with pride his five-year education, thrown out to the top by the nomenklatura opposition, turned out to be a person completely unsuitable for leading state activities. Stalin kept him in secondary roles, and kept him close to big politics, both foreign and domestic. Therefore, once at the very top of the party-state pyramid, Khrushchev behaved like Alice in Wonderland: constantly surprised and disappointed. His attempts to change or break something in the Stalinist empire led to chaos, confusion, financial leapfrog, and, as a result, to the complete inability to figure out what was happening in the country and what its place in the modern world was.

The nomenclature, having come to its senses from the infection of fear of the first post-Stalin years, continuing to hold the people by the throat with one hand, began to feverishly plunder the country with the other, forgetting all decency and even caution in the excitement.

Nikita Khrushchev swore loudly in his office, reading top secret reports about the affairs of his entourage.

Foreign exchange earnings from oil exports for two years disappeared without a trace.

It turned out that the money was placed on current accounts through nominees in Western banks. All traces lead to the Kremlin to the closest employees of the General Secretary. However, the agreement, sealed on the grave of Stalin and Beria, makes these people beyond jurisdiction. But oil is a drop in the ocean. These people already consider all state property as their private property and it is no longer possible to convince them with words.

"Let's convince with deeds!" Khrushchev growls furiously. A wave of arrests begins, but it immediately turns out that the victims were "switchmen" - deputy heads of central departments, trusts, ministries. Skillful conductors deftly direct the testimony of those arrested in the right direction, but Khrushchev, biting the bit, quickly unties their tongues, passing a new law on the death penalty for embezzlement and taking bribes on an especially large scale. New testimonies of those arrested led to the suicide of the first secretaries of the Ryazan, Kemerovo and Rostov regional party committees. Employees of the prosecutor's office shake out from personal safes walled up in the walls of mansions, packs of dollars, gold bars, placers of diamonds, checkbooks of the largest banks in the world, foreign passports. Khrushchev is preparing to take the next step. The proscription list contains the names of his closest colleagues: Brezhnev, Podgorny, Shelest, Kiriyenko and many others. In fact, he is planning the same thing that Stalin did in the last months of his life - to destroy his own Politburo. But what about the sacred contract? But Khrushchev has already violated it by unleashing this vile campaign, causing the suicide of such high-ranking party leaders and bringing many others to a pre-heart attack state ...

On October 14, 1964, as a result of a quiet "palace" coup, Khrushchev was removed from power. The conspirators are faithful to the agreement: Khrushchev's life is spared, a pension is assigned and a dacha is left, but his name is erased from history for many years. "Still, I remade this country a little bit," Khrushchev recalled, not without pride, digging in the garden on his plot. "They didn't shoot me, they didn't put me in jail, they just pushed me out of retirement. It's already so many".

The eighteen-year era of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev began, an era that the nomenklatura had passionately dreamed of all these years. The era of complete lawlessness and impunity. The return to the Leninist norms of party life has taken place...

Meanwhile, the West, led by the United States, watching with interest the events in the USSR, seeing the industrial chaos and the insatiable craving of the party-state elite for theft of the country's national wealth, by 1970 was preparing to crush the Soviet Union with an avalanche of dollar offensive. The CIA reports left no doubt about the success of the plan. The Soviet industry created by Stalin actually works only for military needs, devouring the state budget and leaving every year less and less money for other branches of the state economy, including the agricultural sector.

The elite has almost completely switched to the Western service of consumer goods, the rest of the country's population does not seek to fight the elite, but imitates it.

There is a real possibility of completely destroying all non-military branches of Soviet industry by drawing the USSR into ever new rounds of the race for expensive

weapons associated with the latest high technologies. Two or three more turns, and the communist empire will be smoked. She herself will collapse under the unbearable yoke of her own weapons and global ambitions. This is all the more likely that in its striving for communism, the USSR actually overslept two revolutions: scientific and technological and electronic. This was largely facilitated by Stalin, who initially declared cybernetics "Jewish pseudoscience alien to Marxism", thus ensuring that the Soviet army was forever lagging behind world standards. The Caribbean crisis revealed that the communication, control and command systems of the Soviet army are at such an elementary level that in the conditions of a real electronic war with the use of non-nuclear weapons, the Soviet armies can easily be turned into a huge, uncontrollable, and therefore unfit for combat crowd.

In Moscow, they saw this very well, and in search of salvation from imminent death, they found a method that at first seemed to many to be completely unsuitable. It was about involving the United States in a war somewhere on the periphery, so that those billions of dollars that are intended to crush the USSR would be thrown to the wind.

The controversy, however, quickly fell silent, as everyone understood that there was no other way out. Ho Chi Minh, the president of North Vietnam, was urgently summoned to Moscow, the hero of an endless guerrilla war, as a result of which the French were expelled from Indochina, and Vietnam, like Korea, was divided into two states: communist in the north and supposedly democratic in the south. South Vietnam, which actually does not have an army, just as South Korea once did not, was connected with the United States by a security treaty. Ho Chi Minh was asked to quickly ignite a war for the reunification of the motherland. In essence, it was a repetition of the old Stalinist plan implemented in Korea, with the same idea of redirecting US power from the Soviet Union into the void. Ho Chi Minh agreed for two billion dollars a year and a billion bonuses for each subsequent year of war escalation. Moreover, he did not hide the fact that he intended to put a quarter of this amount into his own pocket. It was his own business. Worried about something else. Will the Americans fall for it? After all, their plan was based on the principle "dollars strike instead of the enemy's bullets." Maybe they will spit on South Vietnam? Where will they all go when the Soviet Union collapses?

But the Americans fell for it. In the excitement of an expected global victory, they decided to casually swat North Vietnam like an annoying fly that gets in the way of important business. And they were drawn into a ten-year bloody, costly war. Having complete dominance in the air, at sea and on land, having turned North Vietnam into a pile of ruins, the Americans did not manage to win this war, eventually evacuating their troops and shamefully leaving South Vietnam at the mercy of the winners from the north.

The plan was a complete success. The Vietnamese trip cost the Americans dearly. Not to mention the 40,000 killed and missing, it almost destroyed the prestige of the United States, undermined the dollar and split American society. It is safe to say that Ho Chi Minh, having killed 2 million of his subjects, extended the existence of the Soviet Union for a good 20 years, and therefore, with good reason, was immortalized with a monument in the center of Moscow on the square of his name.

The political initiative passed to the Soviet Union for a short time and could, under other circumstances, be used very optimally. Alas, the USSR never had anything but weapons, oil, gas, iron ore, timber, furs, as well as black and red caviar. All of the above went for export, bringing, except for weapons, hard currency to the state treasury, where it was stolen with terrifying speed. Therefore, for effective actions in the international arena, only weapons remained, which the Soviet Union supplied to its client countries either completely free of charge or on credit, without even hoping to ever receive this debt.

After the Americans were dragged into the Vietnam adventure, Moscow decided to knock down the opponent again by striking a blow at the US ally in the Middle East - Israel, betting, again, that the United States would not leave its ally in trouble and get bogged down in the tight noose of permanent local wars. Egyptian President Nasser, summoned to Moscow, who was awarded the Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union by Nikita Khrushchev, highly appreciated Moscow's plan, especially since this plan was in line with Nasser's own plans and the decision of the secret meeting of Arab leaders in Khartoum, which provided for the destruction of Israel as a state.

On the part of Moscow, this was a major strategic mistake, almost nullifying almost half of the advantages that were gained thanks to the Vietnam War. Not to mention that for the second time in the short period since the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USSR was placed in a humiliating position of military incompetence that it could hardly afford. And the closure of the Suez Canal, on the coast of which Israeli troops entered after the rapid defeat of the Egyptian army, gave rise to a lot of purely material problems. Soviet ships supplying North Vietnam with everything they needed now had to go around Africa with almost no bunkering points. It is not known whether this was a counterattack by American intelligence in retaliation for Vietnam, but the frivolity with which the Soviet Union fomented armed conflicts in the world did not go unnoticed and was very well used in the last stage of the struggle in Afghanistan.

It was at this time, in 1967, that he was appointed to the post of chairman of the KGB.

Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov. In Stalin's time, he was engaged in Komsomol work, and during the war he received cargo from the Lend-Lease allies in the northern ports, where he became addicted to Johnny Walker whiskey and American canned sausage. Andropov managed to draw attention to himself during the popular uprising in Hungary in 1958, where he was an ambassador.

Together with his assistant Kryuchkov, he lured Imre Nagy to the embassy and then sent him to the gallows, which to a large extent contributed to the defeat of the uprising. Andropov was transferred to the apparatus of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and after the removal of Khrushchev, he joined the supporters of Brezhnev, who declared himself the head of the party.

The piquancy of the situation was that Alexander Shelepin, the "iron Shurik", who also held the post of chairman of the KGB, claimed this post. By this time, the KGB, although it had not yet reached the former power of the Stalinist MGB, was already strong enough, expanded and even restored its famous "liquidation department", which was engaged in political assassinations both at home and abroad. In particular, the leader of Ukrainian nationalists, the famous Stepan Bandera, was killed in Germany. And although, of course, this was done on the orders and with the approval of the Politburo, the murder of Bandera was used to topple the "iron Shurik". It was Andropov who prepared and handed over to the West a package of documents proving that Shelepin himself (against the will of the party) planned and carried out the murder almost for personal gain, since he was haunted by Bandera's currency account in a Munich bank. In the wake of the international scandal that had begun, Shelepin was pushed out first to some insignificant post, and then to retirement, and Andropov took his place. To become the chief of the secret police in a police state means to take the most important post, from the height of which the true state of affairs in the state and far beyond its borders, both vertically and horizontally, is revealed.

Andropov looked around, and what he saw horrified him. In the 14 incomplete years that have passed since the death of Stalin, the country has turned into a huge corrupt swamp that breathed and swayed, threatening at any moment to swallow both ideology and the state in its quagmire. In Andropov's conceited head the thought arose that

the situation can still be saved, but not from the post of chief of the KGB, but from the post of head of the party and state, to which he was still very far away. Therefore, from the first minutes of his tenure as chief of the KGB, Andropov began to prepare a coup d'etat, morally justifying his activities with a desire to save the party and other good intentions with which all the basements of the Lubyanka were paved up and down.

He tried to force things, being the main initiator of the suppression of the Prague Spring by tanks, hoping to cause a cataclysm in the country and in the world and break through to the heights of power on its wave. This time it didn't work. The Czechs put up no resistance, and the United States, stuck in Vietnam, reacted lukewarmly, citing the Potsdam Conference on post-war "spheres of influence." However, they noticed Andropov's method and took note of it in order to use it later.

What so alarmed Andropov, forcing him to act so rudely and straightforwardly? And the fact that he realized with horror that there was almost no time left to save the country from imminent death, and there was no longer the former room for maneuvering. The abyss was approaching rapidly; demanding swift and decisive action. But what quick and decisive action is possible when you are already up to your neck in a quagmire?

And Andropov began to act, reminiscent of an epic hero fighting with a hydra, in which three new ones grow in place of a severed head.

Through the special channels of the KGB, vibrating with secrecy and tension, information was broadcast around the clock, breaking through the cold sweat of those few people from Andropov's inner circle who were admitted to this information.

In the majority of the Union republics all Party and state posts are freely bought and sold for cash. In particular, in Azerbaijan the position of a district prosecutor costs 30,000 rubles, the position of the head of a district police department costs 50,000 rubles. These positions can be bought from the secretary of the district committee by paying in cash. The post of director of the collective farm (although it was considered nominally elective) cost 80 thousand rubles, because it was considered the position of the nomenclature of the district committee, opening up wide opportunities for further advancement along the nomenklatura ladder. The position of the secretary of the district committee was much more expensive - 200 thousand rubles, the second secretary - 100 thousand. The money was paid to the secretaries of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, since these were already positions of the nomenclature of the Central Committee. In the Central Committee, almost all state posts were sold, and not only state ones. The post of director of the theater cost 30 thousand rubles, the director of research institutes - 50 thousand, the title of academician - 50 thousand. Very high in cost, equal to the cost of the post of secretary of the district committee, was the position of the rector of any university in the republic - 200

However, this money paid off very quickly, since a fee of 10,000 rubles was charged for enrolling, say, at the Institute of Foreign Languages, 20,000 rubles at Baku University, 30,000 at the Medical Institute, 35,000 rubles at the Institute of National Economy (at 1970 prices).).

A well-calculated and justified price list was established not only for the positions of regional leaders and workers of science and culture, but also for members of the government and the Central Committee of Azerbaijan. The post of Minister of Social Security cost 120 thousand rubles, and the post of Minister of Trade - 250 thousand rubles. And for membership in the Central Committee of the Communist Party it was necessary to pay half a million.

This practice made it possible for the businessmen of the rapidly developing shadow economy to put their people in key positions from top to bottom, grow together with the party nomenklatura and dictate their policy to it. But that wasn't even the worst part. Huge funds flowing into the Central Committee of the Communist Party and into the hands of its first secretary Akhundov,

went directly abroad, settling on accounts in foreign banks. Azerbaijan was considered the main source of oil in the USSR - the main subject of Soviet exports, bringing billions in profits in the famous petrodollars. And from these profits, practically nothing came to the state treasury. But Akhundov had only his share. The rest of the threads led to the Kremlin, where Andropov, if he could already get there, only without asking any questions and demonstrating complete loyalty.

However, Azerbaijan was not only not an exception, but also was not the worst of the corrupt regions of the country. In neighboring Georgia, where Politburo candidate Mzhavanadze was the first secretary and Albert Churkin was the second, events developed even more abruptly. All positions were even more expensive than in Azerbaijan, but the number of people who wanted to buy these positions was so great that a kind of auction was organized. The secretaries of the Central Committee and members of the Bureau of the Central Committee acted as auctioneers, taking a fee, mainly in jewelry and currency, also deducting interest to Moscow. The party apparatus divided the republic into spheres of its influence, almost completely restoring the order of the feudal system.

vassalage.

And the messages coming from the Central Asian republics seemed incredible, like the fairy tales of Scheherazade: caves full of gold and jewels, underground prisons with slaves sitting on chains, fabulous palaces with harems, gray-haired aksakals lying prostrate in front of the palace of the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Rashidov, as before Kaaba. And again, the threads leading to Moscow and abroad, including the drug trail from secret poppy plantations, which, winding through the countries of the Balkans and the Middle East, ended in Cuba, flowing into the world drug business. Cotton, drugs - billions of dollars floating away into the bottomless pocket of the CPSU. But these are the outskirts. And what is going on in Moscow and Russia?

Corruption has engulfed all branches of government, from the Ministry of Defense to the Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry. And all for their impunity, plundering the state, paid tribute to the CPSU.

Andropov began to develop a plan of action. At first, he assessed his strength quite soberly, but did not underestimate them. In the end, he was a representative of the highest stratum of the nomenklatura and was not at all going to change anything radically. He sought to stop very dangerous processes that originated in the depths of the Central Committee of the CPSU and were steadily and consistently carried out. Appropriating to itself a huge part of the national income, the CPSU transferred countless valuables abroad, as if preparing for evacuation. The impression was created that the top of the party was going to emigrate from the USSR in full force and wished in advance to secure a tolerable life in the West. And for a long time Andropov could not understand the motives of this process, just as a person cannot understand the motives of many of his own actions. After all, he himself was the flesh of the flesh of the nomenklatura.

It was all the more incomprehensible that the Soviet "through the looking glass", the sunny country of Nomenclaturia, guarded by Chekist cordons and an impenetrable veil of secrecy, flourished, grew stronger and grew richer every day. Communism, in general terms, had already been built there, although there was no trace of complete equality there. This created an incentive for further activities. Millions of hard labor workers in special camps and special settlements, who fertilized a sixth of the land with their bodies, made it possible to create a small Spetsstrana. Where everything was special: special residential buildings erected by special construction and installation departments, where the absence of a pool was considered as wild as the absence of windows in an ordinary apartment; special dachas, boarding houses, sanatoriums, hospitals and polyclinics; special products sold in special stores, special canteens, special buffets and special hairdressers; special car depots, gas stations and car numbers; an extensive system of special information, a special telephone network, special children's institutions, special clubs and cinemas, special waiting rooms at railway stations and airports; special maternity hospitals and even cemeteries.

This special country lived, rested, ate, bought, traveled, had fun, studied and was treated, never coming into contact with the people, on the robbery of which all its well-being was based. Fenced off with blank fences and armed guards, luxurious mansions, cottages, "hunting lodges", parks, gardens, tennis courts, swimming pools, openwork arbors, greenhouses, greenhouses, stables with expensive elite horses were buried in greenery.

Veterans of the nomenklatura, like Mikoyan, have been furnishing their country palaces and vast estates since 1919. Unique tapestries, colorful stained-glass windows, personal cinemas, Persian carpets, ancient weapons, gold and silver figurines and trinkets, expensive porcelain, jasper vases, ivory carvings, Indian silks, cellars with collection wines. Estates and mansions were surrounded by solid stone fences, equipped with houses of security and service personnel, who gave the strictest non-disclosure agreement and were encouraged by huge salaries and their own privileges (even a cleaner in Through the Looking Glass received more than an army colonel).

It was a way of life established by Lenin, elevated to the rank of law by Stalin, and maintained by all his successors. Khrushchev, who felt few dachas he had inherited from Stalin, barely reached the top of power, ordered the construction of a new dacha in Pitsunda, which, with its giant swimming pool with a glass roof and glass walls, captured the imagination of even the West German ambassador Krol. The nomenklatura had all this on a completely legal basis, and no one was ever going to fight it. Khrushchev's indignation and Andropov's alarm was caused by the fact that the nomenclature turned out to be insatiable. Those privileges that even in the sweetest dream of a simple Soviet person could not dream of, she was ridiculously few.

The nomenklatura quietly and imperceptibly switched to the Western currency, and since it was constantly in short supply, they went to any lengths to earn this currency.

Constant trips to the west caused her more and more bouts of greed. The lifestyle of billionaires did not give rest. Western electronic equipment, Western household equipment, furniture, services - all this, rapidly changing and improving almost every month, looking so coveted against the gray domestic background, attracted greedy glances, forcing them to dream of dollars as the pinnacle of human happiness. Safaris, sex shows, first-class hotels, the Bahamas, Canaries and Bermudas, bright sun, blue skies, tanned girls from student campsites, luxurious restaurants - all this was so different even from the one in Through the Looking Glass that it made even the special country gray and nasty. I wanted to go West. Much was still inaccessible: snow-white yachts of oil and financial kings, super-expensive casinos and resorts, privileged clubs of millionaires - all this ebullient and fabulously beautiful life. You can't list everything, but I wanted everything.

The Italian statues and French tapestries looted by their grandfathers during the Red Terror era were replaced by modern French and Finnish furniture, West German kitchen units from the famous Kupperbusch company,[31] Sony and Panasonic audio and video systems, and many others, blue Belgian bathtubs and pale fawn Italian toilets. But in a month it all became outdated, and this drove the nomenclature crazy. Everything had to be started all over again: from new brands of jeans to new video systems. There wasn't enough money.

And earning them every day became more and more difficult. The pace of production was falling, the impoverished people were clearly tired, the equipment of the mining industry was completely worn out, and modern factories continued to flood the country with tanks, missiles, bombers and nuclear submarines, which gradually ceased to be in demand even in third world countries, as they lagged more and more behind in terms of

efficiency from American models.

The plunder of the country continued, depleting the subsoil, destroying the economy and bringing death closer. The American dollar, bypassing the impoverished expanses of the USSR, broke through directly into the "mirror", and in fact the country of Nomenklatura was occupied by the enemy, who dictated his will more and more rudely.

Andropov himself, of course, enjoyed all the benefits of the nomenklatura.

He spent his holidays in Nice on the Cote d'Azur (when there were still forces, then with some mysterious long-legged blondes), his three children, as was customary, studied abroad and pursued a diplomatic career. But he clearly saw that if this lawlessness of nomenklatura greed was not stopped, then everything would perish, including the nomenklatura itself. The stern faces of his Chekists at secret operational meetings, their willingness, at the risk of themselves, to penetrate into any pores and holes, bringing more and more terrible information, created in Andropov the illusion that the matter could still be saved by destroying the old nomenklatura and replacing it with a new one, consisting exclusively of from the security forces.

The socialist circle is closed. Andropov embarked on the wrong path of Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria, forgetting about his sad end.

Meanwhile, the increasingly miserable economic situation of the country in general and the nomenklatura in particular forced the party leadership to announce a policy of détente with the West and push their leader, Brezhnev, into insanity, to the west in search of foreign loans, without which the nomenklatura simply could not exist. . The crisis was exacerbated by a sharp drop in world prices for oil and other raw materials, as well as a significant increase in gold prices. Brezhnev went to ask the West for a long-term loan for the modernization of oil-producing equipment and for the supply of grain.

For many years now, supplies of American and Canadian grain have prevented, in addition to all other troubles, an ordinary famine from breaking out in the country. The country and the system were becoming unprofitable before the eyes of the whole world, but they were not yet willing to admit it.[32]

Andropov began to act.

Having somehow taken advantage of a joint vacation with Brezhnev at a resort in the Crimea, he, as if by the way, informed the leader that he had information that in Azerbaijan Akhundov was paying far from full tribute to Moscow, secretly sending abroad huge sums received by him from the illegal sale of oil and in the form of gigantic bribes. The documents collected by Andropov were so convincing that Brezhnev, offended by the fact that he was so rudely robbed, even without consulting members of the Politburo, gave the chief of the secret police permission to conduct a large-scale action in Azerbaijan "to change the party asset."

The war long conceived by Andropov has begun.

All night long Andropov spoke via HF with Heydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijani KGB. Although there was a lot of compromising material against Aliyev in Andropov's safe, which had already cost the lives of three Chekists from Moscow, there was no one else to rely on in this matter.

Aliyev was delighted with the prospect of becoming the first secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, and acted with ruthless determination. A wave of arrests, searches, inspections, removals began throughout Azerbaijan. To help Aliyev, special brigades of the KGB and the Prosecutor's Office were attached. Aliyev, having taken the post of the first secretary of the Communist Party of the republic, replaced the Chekists with about 2 thousand (1983 people) who became vac

positions at various levels. The result of the actions taken is rich booty, however, as with any raid. The impassive lenses of video and movie cameras recorded caches stuffed taller than human height with stacks of banknotes, metal barrels stuffed with gold coins and jewelry, three-liter jars of sparkling diamonds, ominously gleaming gold and platinum ingots. When the lenses approached the banknotes, one could clearly see the gray curls, the lace frill and the stern face of George Washington.

Dollars! The same currency, for the very possession of which already about two hundred thousand people were behind the barbed wire of the revived Gulag.

Akhundov smiled grimly. "This dog," he said, meaning either Aliyev or someone taller, "stole my money, which I honestly earned. Thank God, he found one little thing. May they make him happier and his house brighter. But that's not how money is made."

Andropov himself was even gloomier. First, he understood and knew that he managed to grab only a small change, hidden away for current and emergency expenses. Everything stolen over the years was already safely hidden behind the impregnable steel walls of Western banks. Secondly, Akhundov kept a little more than a third of the loot for himself, and two-thirds went to Moscow. It is understandable.

Another thing is not clear: why Andropov was so surprised that he told Colonel-General Pirozhkov, his deputy: "All the threads are drawn to Moscow. To whom?". Pirozhkov looked at his boss in surprise and allowed himself to laugh. "Probably to us."

But he was only partly right.

The next blow was struck in Georgia, where, as a result, Mzhavanadze was removed from power, and General Eduard Shevardnadze became the first secretary of the Central Committee.

The booty was even greater than in Azerbaijan, since Shevardnadze instructed his people not to hesitate to use all methods of intimidation, up to physical, against the captured apparatchiks. And they beat yesterday's district committee secretaries, pale with horror, knocking out of them the places of hiding places with hidden treasures. The result is original. A lot of evidence of direct involvement in all these cases of the central apparatus of the CPSU was revealed, but some of this evidence, having floated past Shevardnadze and Andropov, disappeared somewhere without a trace.

And again, operational video cameras record mountains of money bundles, where the dull profile of the leader of the world proletariat, the austere appearance of Washington, and the haughty faces of British kings coexist peacefully. The dazzling brilliance of gold and diamonds against the background of oriental carpet ornaments created an atmosphere of some kind of fabulous improbability. We have already seen something similar in Hollywood films about the treasures of Captain Flint and Captain Morgan - famous pirates, founding forefathers of world-famous billionaire dynasties.

So the first steps have been taken. The KGB seized power in two union republics and launched military operations in Central Asia, where raiding tactics did not bring success. The united front on the way of the Moscow operational-investigative brigades was the local party and Chekist structures tightly merged with the mafia. The feudal-patriarchal ethics did not allow to quickly find their Aliyevs and Shevardnadze in these republics.

"Other people's money will not bring happiness," said General Niyazov, who was offered the Caucasian option to take Rashidov's place. "Yes, and this family earned them honestly." Party structures were divided into clans-families, creating purely feudal groupings,

considering the whole people as their slaves, regardless of the work performed. For centuries, it was considered the most gross violation of ethics in these places to be interested in the bay, khan or emir, how he treats his slaves.

A momentous event took place in those parts. The rather well-known journalist Anvar Rakhimov, who, as he thought, had strong ties in Moscow, published articles in a number of central newspapers that very carefully told about what was happening in Uzbekistan and in its neighboring republics. In particular, the name of Yadgar Nasriddinova, a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek USSR, was hurt. It was not at all about the fact that Nasriddinova, having the right to pardon convicts, takes a bribe of up to 100 thousand rubles for each pardon, and not about the fact that she sanctioned the slave labor of children on cotton plantations, and not about what scenes take place within the walls of her a palace where peacocks scream on huge terraces and three-meter-high sturgeons swim in the light emerald waters of fabulous pools, and not about the palace itself, as if emerging from the fairy tales of Scheherazade. It was word for word that "comrade Nasriddinova should put the leadership of the republic on the level of the modern tasks put forward by the party." After this call, Rakhimov disappeared. Unlike many others, they began to look for him. And not private individuals, but a whole brigade of the KGB, whose agent Rakhimov was. It turned out that the journalist was born in the village of Dzharvak in the Bukhara region. The chairman of the KGB in Tashkent, spreading his arms, said: "We have nothing to do with it. local traditions. This is the business of the Karimov family. He is their man."

Karimov, a representative of the powerful Bukhara clan that had taken all the seats in the local regional party committee, was sincerely indignant. Rakhimov? Why do you need to know where Rakhimov is? Manage in Moscow! Only much later it turned out that the journalist was kept in a special prison, which were scattered in many places on the territories of various estates, being the personal prisons of local powerful rulers who became party secretaries and members of the Central Committee, but surpassed the khans of old times in arbitrariness. Rakhimov was kept in chains and with a block around his neck, being beaten and abused. As a result, he went mad and died shortly after his release. But his tragic fate did not even appear in the multi-volume history of the famous "Uzbek" case.

The raid on Central Asia failed, and Andropov was forced to admit it.

The Chekists sent by him there immediately got into loud scandals. One was unexpectedly seized right in his own car, where in the presence of attesting witnesses a "diplomat" full of money was found. A statement from the briber was prepared in advance. Another was accused of attempting to rape a minor, the third was taken to the hospital after some lunch, where they were barely pumped out. And three investigators for particularly important cases of the USSR Prosecutor's Office disappeared altogether (by the way, they have not been found to this day).

The high-ranking officials whom Andropov was counting on broke into unctuous Asian smiles, demonstrating a complete lack of understanding of what they wanted from them: Don't we pay baksheesh to Moscow big brother accurately and accurately? Or is big brother not enough? So it is necessary to say so, and not to fool our heads and offend highly respected people with suspicions that there is no seal of honesty on their faces ...

As a result, Andropov was so cold from the Kremlin that the KGB chief was chilled. He realized that he still did not have enough strength for such a global operation. Another thing became clear: it is pointless to restore order in the republics if all roads lead to Moscow. It makes no sense to take tons of banknotes and valuables out of the republics, even if he, the chief of the KGB, can't really say where they are going next? In state revenue. This is known to every student. And what do these chased words mean - "to the state's income"? And they just mean: to the income of the CPSU, because the party, with the same indisputability, but with much more reason, has long repeated the famous words of Louis: "The state is me!", Which means that all the actions carried out with such enthusiasm by Andropov and his Chekists, were

in essence, the redistribution of party wealth in favor of the central organs of the CPSU. Did Andropov understand this?

Certainly. After all, he himself was a representative of those very central bodies and, if he achieved anything with these actions, it was only that he planted his people in two key places in the republics - potential allies in the future struggle for supreme power, to which he took the first step. And the treasures confiscated by his people disappeared into the bowels of the State Bank, and even he is losing control over them. This is the gold of the party, and he is just one of its soldiers. But on the faces of the security officers showed resentment and disappointment.

Here in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, for example, they don't even think about handing over everything confiscated to the "state". The Minister of the Interior, Andropov's all-powerful rival, General of the Army Shchelokov, opened a whole network of closed shops in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where for a pittance even for ordinary employees (various colonels and lieutenant colonels) they sell magnificent goods: jeans, sheepskin coats, electronics, all kinds of antiques obtained as a result of sentences with confiscation of property to hundreds of thousands of residents of the country annually. And there is nothing to say about the leadership!

Andropov knows this, just as he knows that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is not playing such a big game as he himself had planned. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is wooling the population of the country, having an instruction prohibiting even rising to the level of deputy ministers. As for party structures, not a single employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, regardless of rank, is allowed even on the threshold of the district committees of the CPSU, no matter what threads lead there - even traces of purely domestic murders. But the Ministry of Internal Affairs does not climb anywhere, having long ago found its "gold" vein. The situation in the country is such that one can take with closed eyes any business executive, representative of trade or supply, pump out the stolen goods from them, handing over what is due to the income of the "state", without forgetting oneself. In the West, interest in the beautiful pre-revolutionary Russian antiques has never fallen, and now interest in it, and hence the price, has risen sharply. The Ministry of Internal Affairs quickly revealed an underground channel for the care of antiques across the cordon and, at the same time, established its own channels for its extraction. All antique shops have become branches of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

All collectors of antiques were registered and they were slowly but surely taken through court cases with mandatory confiscation of property.

If not, which is extremely rare, but it happened, the collector proved his crystal honesty and enlisted the support of influential people (at a level not lower than Galina Brezhneva), then get something seized during the search from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (and everything, of course, was selected in advance, so as the result was considered a foregone conclusion), it was so difficult that there were hardly a dozen people who managed to do it ... The confiscated antiques were exhibited in a special closed exhibition hall of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Moscow on the street. Ogaryova, 6.

Noble persons from the party apparatus selected some things for themselves, and the rest was graciously allowed to be sold on the Western market, of course, for foreign currency. And the Ministry of Internal Affairs, using its own channels and the channels of the criminal world, continuously replenished the assets of the party's gold.

If it was necessary, criminals were directed to museums, where at the right time, skillful hands turned off the alarm and put to sleep (or even killed) the guards, stealing valuables of historical significance. (How much beauty the Russian people managed to create, if in the process of continuous more than seventy years of plunder of their wealth, they could not pump it out to the bottom!).

Such stories are no longer surprising. After all, Romanov, the first secretary of the Leningrad regional committee of the CPSU, ordered the service of Catherine II stored in the Hermitage to be delivered to him, smashed it to smithereens, walking at the wedding of his own daughter. And nothing. Nobody even

made a sound.

The entire antique world knew about the figurine of a monkey carved from a huge single piece of amber and displayed in the window of the Opal Moscow store serving foreigners. Wealthy tourists have repeatedly asked the price of the amber miracle standing in the window, but invariably received an answer that the thing is a national treasure and is not for sale. One fine morning, the monkey disappeared from the window. American correspondents accredited in Moscow, who flocked to this news, bombarded the saleswomen and the administration of the jewelry store with questions. Saleswomen stereotypically answered: "The thing is sold", and the administration, mysteriously rolling their eyes, shrugged. They couldn't tell that on the orders of General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Churbanov, Brezhnev's son-in-law and Shchelokov's deputy, the director of the store was roused from his bed at night, and the amber miracle disappeared. Churbanov, according to his words, carried out the whim of his wife, Galina Leonidovna, but, despite all the bumps of fate that sent Churbanov himself to jail, despite numerous searches carried out in numerous apartments and dachas of the secretary general's daughter, the monkey was never found. Melted into dollars, it took a place in a private collection in the west.

The unique antique diamond necklace, which belonged to the famous Soviet movie star Zoya Fedorova, did not go unnoticed. The necklace was once presented to the actress by her husband, an American admiral who was on a diplomatic mission in Moscow during the war years. After the war, according to all the rules of the norms of the socialist way of life implanted by Stalin, the admiral was expelled, and Zoya Fedorova was sent to a concentration camp. Apparently, anticipating her fate, the actress gave the necklace to her friends for safekeeping, and thus preserved it. Now, in the wake of the policy of détente announced by Brezhnev due to the lack of hard currency and the impending economic catastrophe, the actress tried to go to her husband in the United States and received permission.

However, the necklace was not allowed to cross the border, announcing to Fedorova that such a valuable thing needed a special permit. Fedorova decided to stay in Moscow to obtain such permission. She would have thrown the necklace at customs if it had not been a memory of her only bright love of her youth. The love that cost the actress so dearly. A few days later, Zoya Fedorova was found shot in the back of the head in her own apartment, and the necklace was found much later among the belongings of General Shchelokov, who had shot himself. And not only this necklace.

Andropov knew about all this. He made an attempt to connect the KGB to the affairs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, selecting cases for himself according to things "having a high historical and artistic value." The Ministry of Internal Affairs fiercely resisted, not wanting to let rivals into its rich granary, but still reluctantly agreed "to conduct joint operations in exceptional cases." Even before that, Andropov managed to infiltrate some of his officers into the OBKhSS system and take some control over the so-called "special police" dealing with small and medium-sized

money changers.

However, it turned out that antique cases are not at all as simple and easy as it seemed at first glance.

A gang of robbers broke into the apartment of academician Chudnovsky in broad daylight, whose "Caucasian nationality", in official language, was clearly evident. The criminals were interested in paintings from the academician's collection. It was difficult with academics. They could not be accused, like all other collectors, of acquiring a collection for "unearned income", and therefore to prove the legality of its confiscation as "state income". Therefore, other methods were applied to academicians. Having tied the owner, the robbers began to extract from the frames several extremely expensive canvases by Matisse, just entering into great fashion in the West. One of the criminals, wringing out the nails of the frame with a knife,

in a hurry, he plunged the blade into his hand and wounded it quite thoroughly. Having done their job, the Caucasians fled.

The KGB took over. The descriptions of the victim were accurate, and experienced operatives quickly realized that this was a criminal group from Baku, which had been "shone" on cases of this kind more than once. Direct special communication with Baku worked perfectly, and an hour later an order from Moscow was transmitted to the KGB of Azerbaijan to arrest a group with names and surnames for fidelity. What was the disappointment in Moscow when in Baku, after carefully listening to the information received from Moscow, they answered: "Yes, this group is well known, but, unfortunately, there must have been some kind of mistake here, since the people listed have already left for a year already. abroad on an Israeli visa. But the KGB would not be the KGB even if it believed its own word and used only official channels. We contacted agents and found out that the whole gang is quietly in Baku, is not going to leave anywhere, but, on the contrary, has recently returned from a trip to Italy, having brought a "bunch" of currency.

Andropov felt insulted.

A special team of operatives incognito, observing all the measures of secrecy, flew to Baku. At one of the military bases near the city, a plane was waiting for the operatives, ready for an immediate departure. The gang was quickly and quietly tied up in the city, stuffed into cars and, without even saying hello to the local KGB, they were taken to Moscow.

The identification of the perpetrators went off without a hitch. Characteristic faces, a scar on his arm - everything converged. The KGB colonel, shaking hands with the academician, congratulated him and himself on his success, assuring him that further investigation would not take even a month. A week later, the academician was again summoned to the investigator. Looking somewhere over his head at the portrait of Dzerzhinsky, the colonel, choosing his words with a visible effort, announced that the case was closed, the criminals were released due to lack of evidence. The academician did not waste time on "oohs" and surprise, but immediately asked where he could appeal against such a decision. The colonel, after a pause, replied: "Apparently, you can appeal if you immediately complain personally to Comrade Brezhnev." The colonel did what he was ordered to do. The academician went to the hospital, unable to withstand such a dynamic development of unpredictable events.

But both of them would have been even more shocked if they knew that thanks to this case, Andropov was subjected to humiliation, which he had not experienced since Stalin's time, when the Generalissimo remembered his contacts with the Allies during the war and almost liquidated him, since he was sincerely convinced : any contact with foreigners always ends for a Soviet person with recruitment into imperialist intelligence.

Andropov was summoned by Suslov, a member of the Politburo and the chief party ideologist, in whose office was Boris Ponomarev, head of the international department of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Suslov dryly asked: why Andropov's people allow themselves bandit actions in the capitals of the Union republics, without even informing the local party leadership about this.

Andropov tried to explain that we were talking about dangerous criminals, one might say, about a bandit formation, for the elimination of which so little time was allotted that it was completely impossible to start red tape of inter-republican agreements. To this, Suslov noted that only the court determines whether a person is a criminal or a bandit, and by no means security agencies, about which there are a number of party documents and decisions of congresses, which it would be nice for Andropov to study. Still not quite understanding the essence of the unfolding intrigue, the KGB chief looked with bewilderment at the main party ideologist, but then Ponomarev intervened in the conversation. Boris Ponomarev was the most influential figure in the apparatus of the Central Committee of the CPSU, so influential that even Andropov knew only what he knew about the affairs of the international department of the Central Committee headed by him.

it is supposed to know, and all attempts to find out more either ran into a blank wall of impenetrable secrecy, or dissipated in labyrinths of counterversions, skillfully spread rumors and skillful legends.

Andropov's people served the international department of the Central Committee, scouring the world with suitcases of foreign currency, passing it from hand to hand in secluded places among representatives of various fraternal communist parties, leftist groups and numerous terrorist organizations - the only representatives of the degenerated communist workers' movement. It was difficult to form a complete picture of what was happening from the mosaic reports of these couriers. The old conspiratorial scheme was at work, born in the brilliant minds of Parvus and Lenin, the most talented criminals of the 20th century.

Small, thin and mobile, like a spermatozoon, Ponomarev was distinguished by an unprecedented capacity for work for a nomenklatura figure, personally traveling around the world and having access to all the party secretary generals of the planet, including Brezhnev, at any time of the day or night. Looking at Andropov through the thick glasses of West German glasses, Ponomarev, in a boring and raspy voice, suddenly began to lecture him on the current problems of socialist construction.

The building of a communist society, noted the head of the international department of the Central Committee, is currently encountering obstacles in the form of a denial of socialist statehood by individuals and, let's not hide, certain categories of the population who have come under the influence of Western propaganda and, as a result, have been reborn. Anyone, let alone Andropov, probably knows how much effort and money the CIA spends on these purposes, cultivating among the Soviet people a petty-bourgeois ideology, a craving for luxury and irrepressible consumerism. Increasingly surprised, Andropov listened attentively. He himself, of course, knew how to speak Party Newspeak, but, like everyone else, he understood it poorly.

Therefore, the policy of our party, continued Ponomarev, in the field of communist construction, as before, is based on the immortal ideas of Marx and Lenin about universal equality within the framework of a single socialist fatherland.

Unable to stand it, Andropov asked what relation to all these, of course, indisputable truths, is armed robbery, as a result of which paintings by Matisse worth several million dollars were stolen.

And this, Ponomarev explained, is that paintings by Matisse worth several million dollars do not hang in every apartment, and therefore create a nervous atmosphere of class inequality in a classless society. There are things that cannot be kept in private collections at all, both for ideological reasons and for reasons of safety of the things themselves, which this case very characteristically emphasized.

Suslov nodded in agreement, looking into space. "So where are these pictures?" Andropov gritted through his teeth, looking from under his brows at the head of the international department of the Central Committee.

Ponomarev almost jumped.

"Are we talking about paintings? he almost screamed. We are talking about people whom you seized in Baku in violation of all norms of socialist legality. Comrade Aliev (Andropov, sighed and closed his eyes) indignantly telephoned Leonid Ilyich personally, and he intends to raise this issue with the Politburo. The Party has always fought and will continue to fight against arbitrariness and lawlessness!" Ponomarev, among other things, was also an academician, so it was difficult to argue with him ...

Giving the order to the head of the KGB investigative department, Lieutenant-General Kurbanov, to release the Baku residents, Andropov, smiling wryly, remarked: "I won't go to anyone else

for a visit. I'm afraid to see these paintings in someone's collection.

"I can tell whose," Kurbanov grinned.

"Not yet," Andropov stopped him, "tell me when I ask..."

He collected paintings himself, collected French erotic bronzes of the last century, played music and even dabbled in poetry, like Mao Tse-tung. And so he was doubly hurt.

Under "the action of irresistible forces" he has already lost many positions. Some of his people began to receive salaries in dollars and certificates. He not only allowed, but achieved this by compiling secret memos to the Central Committee about the need to cover the KGB from pervasive, like directed radiation, corruption. And there have already been so many cases that it was possible to be wary.

Some Chekists even had to be shot for bribes. Moreover, the speed with which these sentences were pronounced and carried out clearly indicated that many heads of the executed were also involved in the case. However, the payment of salaries in foreign currency to some units instantly split the already not monolithic ranks of the descendants of Iron Felix. The units that bypassed began to grumble muffledly, clearly demonstrating their displeasure. Some were fired from the bodies, others were punished in a disciplinary manner. Lectures were given to Chekists and discussions were held, idiotic both in form and content. People sat, frankly bored, and even dozed off. I had to urgently open a network of closed stores for rubles through the military trade network. There was not God knows what in these stores, intended for junior and middle officers, but still: there were various cheap jeans, Belgian suits, safari shirts, imported cigarettes, food orders. People cheered up.

Andropov personally knocked out a preferential line for housing for his people in the districts, overcame the obvious misunderstanding of the regional committees and city committees and the fierce resistance of the officials of the city executive committees, who were losing their legitimate "earnings" on the preferential provision of housing. All this helped little. Andropov's secretariat was filled with applications for the provision or improvement of living space.

Together, they were wildly jealous of the First Main Directorate (PGU), which was engaged in foreign intelligence. "Personnel contamination" there was amazing, which was repeatedly emphasized in his secret reports addressed to Andropov by the head of the KGB personnel department, General Chebrikov. Various sissies and elite children from the hereditary nomenclature rushed into the cadre of intelligence officers, since by this time such a heroic profession had suddenly become completely safe, but still highly prestigious and very profitable. Spending most of their time in the West under the guise of diplomatic passports and under the roof of various departments from the APN and Aeroflot to the State Concert, receiving salaries in foreign currency and money for operating expenses, scouts, bastard from their fabulous life and at the risk of being expelled, were engaged abroad in frank "dirty", sometimes translating articles from open Western journals and sending them to the center as secret information obtained. At the same time, they were easily recruited by Western counterintelligence, sometimes without even knowing it. Such flows of information and misinformation were going to Moscow that it became unthinkable to process it with the help of those primitive means that were available. Information chaos was brewing.

Thousands upon thousands of tapes of overheard conversations, from ministerial offices in Washington to communal kitchens in their own country, lay unprocessed. Millions of references, reports, dossiers went to the archive unread.

The ever-widening gap in the levels of education and technical

training in the West and in the USSR. For a lot of money, the Americans planted drawings of a 1942 sonar model for one resident in the United States. But this was quickly sorted out in Moscow. And there have been more difficult cases. The allegedly secret American technical developments and calculations received were sent to the relevant research institutes, ordering them to work in this direction.

Teams of many thousands worked for years coming to the conclusion that the direction is futile and leads to a dead end. But this still had to be proven to officials.

And it was difficult to prove this, since the Americans deliberately introduced errors in multi-volume computer calculations. They began to understand this when another plane crashed, a rocket exploded, or a test bench shattered into pieces.

But this was not the worst. The doom was terrible, about which, without suspecting this, intelligence reported.

In the West, they managed to buy without much difficulty and for a quarter of the price (three million dollars) an American Phantom fighter-bomber.

Soviet specialists, having examined the car, were amazed by its electronic richness. Having approximately the same aerodynamic and maneuvering characteristics as Soviet machines of this class, the Phantom, thanks to its electronics, was able to detect and destroy Soviet aircraft much earlier and at a much greater distance. And the Soviet industry was not even able to copy a single node from its detection equipment, electronic countermeasures and destruction. The old disease, which began with Stalin's historical words about cybernetics as "Jewish pseudoscience alien to Marxism," turned out to be chronic and incurable.

The American Skywinder air combat missile, striking in its effectiveness, was also easily acquired in the West at half price (later it turned out that it was even cheaper - scouts also always "cut out" for themselves for a rainy day). And the other two missiles generally got almost for nothing - from the Vietnamese partisans, who stole them right from under the wings of American fighters at some base in South Vietnam. The Soviet socialists, who constantly dreamed of seeing the guidance scheme of this rocket, having fulfilled their dream, mournfully pursed their lips. Yes, the scheme was simple as a rake.

Americans have never liked complexity in general, even giving rise to the national saying "he's not smart enough to do simple things." All this was so. But the guidance scheme was based on microlamps, which the Soviet Union, with all its desire, could not produce. To do this, it would be necessary to increase the vacuum by two orders of magnitude in factories built at one time by prisoners and construction battalions.

And the Americans, as if mocking, are selling to Soviet intelligence the entire set of drawings (a carriage) and all the technological maps for the production of nuclear submarines-missile carriers of the "George Washington" type. Build guys, have fun. Oh, how excited everyone was back then. On each sheet is the American stamp "Top secret!" And two of our "Top Secret! Of Special Importance", purple stamps with two zeros and other exotics. Brezhnev himself received two guys from PSU, who bought and dragged all this mountain of waste paper to Moscow, and handed them a Hero star each. On examination, it turned out that it was not even worth talking about it. Suffice it to recall that the only dead missile carrier in the world was a missile carrier of this particular series, which in shipbuilding circles was nicknamed "Ivan Washington".

All these games cost a lot of money, bringing either no results or outright harm. It was already a tradition. Did it really help the country that intelligence at one time accurately set the date of the attack on the USSR - June 22?

The bad thing about the whole thing was that the scouts got so used to life in the west that they returned home with great reluctance, hoping that the period of stay in their homeland would be short-lived, and if there was no such hope, they simply refused to return. At the same time, they either hid or went to surrender. It is difficult to name a country where this would not have happened in the Andropov and post-Andropov times.

But, oddly enough, all this did not affect either the career of Andropov himself, or the career of the head of the PGU, General Kryuchkov, whom Andropov dragged along the ranks from the time of the suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956. This, apparently, happened, firstly, because the flight to the West of the sons of the nomenklatura, who make up the bulk of the foreign intelligence officers, did not really bother the nomenklatura itself, which was already morally ready to follow their example, and, secondly, also because the front of the secret war in the West, despite all its romanticism, was still considered auxiliary in comparison with the global front of the secret war raging inside the country.

In his restless desire to save his homeland and in ecstasy of success in the Caucasus, Andropov decided to take the next step. As a target for the next strike, he chose the Moscow City Party Committee, headed by Politburo member Grishin.

Grishin's predecessor as first secretary of the Moscow City Committee was a certain Yegorychev, who was also mired to the ears in corruption, but dreamed of rising to the level of big politics. That is why he regularly listened to lectures on the intrigues of world Zionism and constantly consulted on this subject with the KGB, which, in turn, was looking for a way to topple Yegorychev and put an Andropov man in his place. It was in the fight against world Zionism that Yegorychev burned down. Once, at a meeting in the Politburo in the presence of Brezhnev, when another war was raging in the Middle East in 1973, Yegorychev, having taken a sip of brandy more than usual, proposed landing Soviet marines on the Sinai Peninsula and starting a march on Tel Aviv.

Brezhnev's eyebrows shot up in surprise, and the defense minister turned pale, because he felt intrigue against himself in this dashing appeal. In 1973, it was still planted
nothing and nothing.

"Comrade Yegorychev," Brezhnev asked, "whose opinion are you expressing?"

"The opinion of the Moscow City Party Committee," replied the first secretary of the Moscow City Committee.

"So you are discussing such issues at the city committee," the Secretary General asked with ominous notes in his voice.

There was a painful silence, as a result of which Grishin, Suslov's man, became the first secretary of the Moscow City Committee.

Andropov was still too weak.

The CIM turned into a nest of corruption, embezzlement and various other dark dealings, to the smallest detail reminiscent of a gangster syndicate somewhere in Chicago in the early 50s. The only difference was that the gangster syndicate paid taxes and was afraid of the police, while the CIM did not pay taxes, and the police pulled themselves up and saluted at the sight of even small clerks from this powerful institution. Emboldened by impunity, the MGK began to make mistakes.

A member of the bureau of the city committee and the first secretary of the Kuibyshev district committee of the city of Moscow - Galushko, received a bribe of one and a half million rubles (partially in precious stones) for providing four apartments to some dark personalities from Tbilisi. However, taking

money, customers deceived. Enraged, they did not spare further expenses and entered into a very closed and influential circle of adventurers close to Brezhnev's daughter, Galina.

It is not known what springs the daughter of the general secretary pressed, but a brigade of the OBKhSS headed by General Grishin himself (ironically, the namesake of the first secretary of the Moscow City Committee) came to the special house to comrade Galushko and conducted a search, confiscating gold and valuables, as well as banknotes in the amount of one and a half million rubles. Galushko was arrested. The next day the case was handed over to the KGB. Andropov himself interrogated the secretary of the district committee, who had lost his head from fear, and obtained from him a confession that he was just a "six" among the leaders of the city committee.

Andropov began to think about how best to report all this to Brezhnev, in order to topple the entire city committee with one valiant blow, make it a branch of the Lubyanka and launch an attack on the Kremlin.

But the alarm was already sounding in the Moscow City Party Committee.

Hiding some of his employees in dachas and special hospitals, Grishin rushed to Brezhnev.

Galushko was released, and General Grishin was put on trial "for abuse of office" and convicted.

Andropov was summoned to the General Secretary.

Brezhnev looked at him reproachfully. Suslov, Grishin, Chernenko, who were present, and Rashidov, who happened to be in Moscow on some occasion, attacked the KGB chief like a pack of hunting dogs. He was reminded that the main task of the KGB was to protect the nomenklatura, and not to supervise its morality. To do this, there is a party control commission, which may have questions to Andropov himself. Let's say, does Yuri Vladimirovich know what happens every day in those numerous and luxurious apartments that were transferred to him from the precious special fund of the capital as secret ones. Conspiratorial apartments are good, the debauchery in which the whole house, and even the whole district knows about! To whom and how much currency do prostitutes working under the supervision of the 5th department of the KGB hand over? With what money and why are obscure combat units of the KGB organized? And most importantly: the KGB has completely dismissed its main enemy, for the sake of which the party tolerates such a huge punitive apparatus on its balance sheet. We are talking about the population of the country, which already allows itself the devil! The country is filled with anti-Soviet literature, some kind of ideologically harmful music is broadcast through all channels, the devil knows what books are printed. Young people do not want to work or serve in the army. There is cringing before the West and praising the Western way of life.

This is what the KGB should fight against, and not scour the district committees in search of booty.

Andropov tried to object.

Was it not the party itself that started flirting with the States, and in response to loans opened Jewish emigration from the country, receiving money from each released Jew? Wasn't he, Andropov, always against both flirting with a potential adversary and against allowing any kind of emigration from the country? He even wrote a special memorandum on the subject. Was it not he who organized the expulsion from the country of the slanderer and renegade Solzhenitsyn and wages an unceasing campaign to defame Sakharov and his ilk, slowly pushing them abroad or putting them behind bars?

He and his department, with the exception of the army, are the only state institution currently functioning, while many comrades simply retired from business behind high fences and oak doors, while doing, to put it mildly,

unknown what. If the party does not fight degenerates and bribe-takers in its ranks, it will perish and destroy the country.

Everyone calmed down somewhat, and the conversation went in more peaceful tones.

No, no one doubts Comrade Andropov's devotion to the cause of the Party and its ideals.

Unfortunately, the realities of the modern world dictate just such a policy of the party at this stage. Nobody objects to the need to restore order in the country, but does Comrade Andropov, our dear Yuri Vladimirovich, have such an excess of strength and such a narrow front of work that he begins to fire on his own, on veterans of the Party and the revolution?

This phrase, taken almost verbatim from Khrushchev's speech at the 20th Party Congress, contained a deep meaning. Started by Khrushchev and approved by the nomenklatura, the de-Stalinization was aimed not at exposing the regime's crimes against the country and an unprecedented genocide against its own people, but at exposing Stalin's methods in his ongoing war against the nomenklatura.[33]

For reading the "Archipelago" they were given a term - up to 7 years in the camps and 5 years of exile until 1985. This is common knowledge. Another thing is interesting: the book was first published in the West at the expense of ... the KGB (even without the knowledge of the author).

The explosion of public opinion in the world was terrible, like the success of the book itself, instantly translated into all existing languages. The name of the USSR disappeared and was replaced by the Gulag Archipelago. One Soviet journalist once "voted" on a deserted Argentinean highway for a truck that was going to get to a neighboring town. The truck driver, a middle-aged Indian, realizing that he was carrying a foreigner, asked where

That.

"From Russia," the journalist replied.

"Ah," drawled the driver, "I know. I read The Gulag Archipelago.

Cynics say that the KGB did this on purpose to provide themselves with work for many years, so that there would always be someone and for what to imprison.

But the ways of a secret war are inscrutable, especially when the chief of the KGB strives for the supreme authorities.

"Stalin fired at his own," Nikita Khrushchev roared into the microphone, "at the veterans of the revolution! We condemn him for this arbitrariness... In the history of mankind there were many cruel tyrants, but they all died from the ax just as they themselves supported their power with an ax...". Khrushchev even said much more than he wanted to. Recognizing in an oratory frenzy that Stalin was killed by his faithful disciples (almost with an ax to the head), Nikita Sergeevich warned all future generations of the party nomenklatura about the main danger: Do not shoot at your own! Or die from an axe.

Andropov was silent.

The result was summed up by Brezhnev. The leader of the CPSU, falling into prostration, did not like such showdowns, which prevented him from enjoying life in his luxurious mansions and hunting castles scattered throughout the country and in many European countries. "I see that the comrades have understood each other, and this is very good." And solemnly kissed Andropov on both cheeks, shedding tears.

But on the same day, General Tsvigun, brother-in-law, was appointed Andropov's first deputy.

Brezhnev, married to the sister of the Secretary General's wife.

The hint was more than clear. The fight escalated. Andropov knew much more than what he had expressed to the agitated nomenklatura, but he still did not know everything.

The American stamp "Access is restricted", filled with the Soviet stamp "Secret" and the registration stamp of secret office work: "CIA report on the economic and internal political situation in the USSR. Analytical Report for the President, Government and Congress of the United States for 1978. The original, and for some reason in Russian. Why? Yes, so that the KGB does not waste time translating, but read it immediately, as soon as the two hundred-page report is handed over (supposedly from agents) to Soviet intelligence and sent to Moscow.

It is very kind of the Americans that they took on some of the care of the huge apparatus of the Soviet secret police. "Why did they start printing their reports in Russian?" - asked the surprised head of the PGU Kryuchkov Andropov, although Andropov should have asked Kryuchkov about this. "Yes, if I were a Negro of advanced years, even without effort and laziness I would have learned Russian ...", Andropov quoted, who loved to show off his intellect in front of his subordinates.

Kryuchkov left in bewilderment because his boss was not at all interested in such a detail ...

"... At the present time, there is a clear trend towards a split in the central apparatus of the CPSU and in the leading apparatus of the communist parties of the Union republics. The main reason for this is the constantly deteriorating economic situation in the country. The stagnation of all types of industry, a steady decline in production, a catastrophic drop in labor productivity, chronic crop failures were further aggravated by the fall in world prices for traditional Soviet exports: oil, gas and unprocessed timber. Huge in volume, completely unbalanced military production, expanding annually, destroys all other industries, placing the country in an ever increasing dependence on imports of a wide range of essential goods, including food.

Meanwhile, the aged leadership of the USSR not only does not see the disastrous path, but, on the contrary, draws the country into a spiral of new global spending, which it can no longer withstand either theoretically or practically ...

Financial support for communist parties all over the world, assistance to developing countries, with the hope that they will choose the so-called "socialist path", salvation from bankruptcy of the satellite countries of Eastern Europe, confrontation with the civilized world, all this long-term path, as it is already quite obvious, leads nowhere, but the Kremlin continues to follow it with the stubbornness of the doomed ...

The satellite countries of Eastern Europe, which many of our politicians have long called "time bombs", are really becoming such, driving Moscow into a hopeless dead end in the face of the fear of an inevitable explosion. In the conditions of a communist economy, when there is a strong commodity shortage and autarkic tendencies prevail, and purely conditional money has only a relative value, only commodities are absolute value ...

By supplying goods to client countries, the Soviet government is depriving its own country and economy of the most necessary things. Inflated prices do not equalize the situation, since the products that the countries of "people's democracy" give in return are of a much lower quality than Western ones, which creates a constant commodity vacuum in the USSR ...

In order to maintain at least some level of trade relations with the West, the Soviet Union is forced to develop unprofitable mines and mines that require billions of state subsidies, to extract low-quality oil in remote, hard-to-reach areas of the country, where its cost is very high, driving itself into a kind of economic a vicious circle from which there is no way out ...

Brezhnev, who visited India, signed an agreement to provide the Gandhi government with a loan of \$820 million. In addition, he promised to increase the supply of oil to India by 1 million tons (currently 1.9 million tons are supplied). A secret agreement was also signed on the supply of weapons, in particular, 25 MiG-25 aircraft, for a total amount of \$1.6 billion. As always, the soft loan for the supply of arms is designed in such a way that it is not clear whether India ever intends to

put out...

What the USSR annually costs the satellite countries in the supply of raw materials and finished products, there are only estimated data. However, the USSR annually spends on these countries and hard currency, increasing its own ever-growing debt to the West, which currently stands at 17 billion 900 dollars.

In addition, the Kremlin has taken on the responsibility of guarantoring Western loans to Eastern Europe, potentially shouldering another \$60 billion in debt.

Concerning the annual dollar subsidies to the satellite countries, there are exact figures visible from the following table:

Soviet subsidies in millions of dollars. Debt to the West in millions of dollars.

GDR 292 11500

Cuba 1860 -

Czechoslovakia 344 4500

Poland 1900 23000

Mongolia 86 -

Romania 460 9500

Hungary 167 8900

Vietnam 1040 -

Bulgaria 127 4500

Over the past 10 years, the Soviet Union has spent \$85.8 billion in this way, distributing these huge funds as follows:

Cuba \$15.4906 billion

Vietnam \$9.1312 billion

Syria \$7.426 billion

Iraq \$3.7656 billion

Ethiopia \$2.8605 billion

North Korea \$2.2341 billion

Mongolia \$9.5427 billion

India \$8.9075 billion

Poland 4 billion 955 million

Afghanistan \$3.055 billion

Algeria \$2.5193 billion

Angola \$2.0289 billion

All these expenses, having an annual tendency to increase, bring absolutely no benefit to the Soviet Union and cannot be explained in terms of real interstate relations.

The political benefits achieved by the Kremlin in this case are negligible, and their prospects look very doubtful. So, for example, in Angola, despite the massive deliveries of Soviet weapons to the MPLA, in the territories controlled by Marxist groups, our oil companies continue to extract oil, and South American diamonds on even more favorable terms than before the Soviet penetration ...

The Kremlin's gigantic sums of spending consist mainly of massive supplies of weapons and raw materials (mainly oil and oil products) to client countries for the sole visible purpose of supporting local communist or pro-communist rulers. However, this flow also includes direct movements of gold funds and cash through the system of banking structures controlled by Moscow, as well as through the international banking network. At the same time, the money transferred, say, to Cuba, settles in the banks of Spain and France on fictitious accounts of nominees or firms, constituting, on the one hand, the personal funds of the Castro family, and on the other hand, capital allegedly fully owned by local communist parties. But this is not entirely true, since Moscow easily withdraws money from these accounts, spending it as it sees fit. So, during the recent stay of unofficial Soviet delegations in Monte Carlo and Kenya, where 240 and 285 thousand dollars were respectively spent on various goods and services (roulette and safari), the money to cover these expenses was withdrawn from the accounts of the Spanish Communist Party ...

Moreover, the Kremlin's money is invested in the capital of well-known firms and companies that not only have nothing to do with the world communist movement, but, on the contrary, are officially branded by Moscow as part of the military-industrial complex of the West. A paradoxical picture is being created of Moscow investing money in our defense system instead of spending it on its own ailing economy.

At present, there is evidence that Moscow has money in the diamond processing business (firms in South Africa, Israel and Holland), in the gambling business (Monte Carlo, Las Vegas, Hong Kong), in the acquisition through nominees of about a dozen casinos, gambling and brothels in various parts of the world, in the drug business (connection through Cuba with the drug cartels of Latin America and through Afghanistan and their own Muslim republics with the drug syndicates of Central and Southeast Asia) ...

During the last contacts of the Soviet leadership (the trips of Brezhnev and Gromyko) with

The leadership of the United States and the countries of Western Europe, Moscow has repeatedly stated that the main goal of these contacts is the urgent need to obtain Western loans for the modernization of the entire extractive industry and agriculture. However, the proposals of Western countries to supply the appropriate equipment on account of the loans provided were rejected and a desire was expressed to receive a purely monetary loan, since the Soviet side had not yet chosen suppliers and intended to organize a competition for firms. Almost all of the loans received have settled in accounts in Western banks and are actually redistributed to the personal accounts of senior party officials...

One gets the impression that some part of the leadership of the CPSU, seeing much more clearly from within than we do from outside, the catastrophe approaching the country and its inevitability, is preparing in advance for the exodus to the West, creating a material base for this. It is precisely the creation of the material base for the future outcome, apparently, that determines the entire foreign and domestic policy of the USSR, which has no other explanation.

As a result of such a policy, the gold reserves of the USSR have decreased by about three times over the past 30 years and continue to decline rapidly. An ever-growing industrial decline threatens to spiral out of control and lead to total economic chaos, creating a unique opportunity to destroy the Soviet Union as a great world power without resorting to military means...

It seems appropriate in the near future to try to expand the number of client countries of the USSR by increasing the volume of its exorbitant expenses (or even better, its direct involvement in any major regional conflict) and a well-thought-out credit policy, expanding the split in the Kremlin leadership ...

This was followed by a lengthy study of the question of where it is best to draw the USSR into a regional conflict. Cuba, the Middle East, Angola, and even the possibility of provoking war with China were considered. Countless pros and cons have been cited, speaking more about the great awareness of the authors of the report than about their intentions ...

It was not for nothing that the CIA report came to Andropov in Russian. There was nothing in him that the KGB chief did not know. Unless many of the provisions were formulated more clearly and with less verbal husk than in the top secret information of the KGB itself, where, nevertheless, many things were afraid to call them by their proper names, but specific surnames were called.

Only drastic reforms could save the country, but it was not even possible to start these reforms in the conditions in which the USSR was. Only by crushing and destroying the existing nomenklatura—andropov clearly saw this—could we begin to restore order in the country, and then to radical reforms. But where to get people to carry out such wonderful plans? Where can we get those cadres who, “deciding everything”, will save the country?

His bold idea to replace the nomenclature with his Chekists, although it was also meant, had already brought considerable disappointment.

The Azerbaijani experiment demonstrated that the security officers, having seized upon the bread nomenklatura posts, behave, thanks to their inherent courage and determination, even more brazenly than their predecessors. Aliyev himself, quickly getting a taste of the opportunities that opened up as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic, turned Azerbaijan into something very reminiscent of the Baghdad Caliphate during the time of the legendary Caliph Haroun al-Rashid. Aliyev was already called that in Baku - “Garun-al-Rashid” - and they recalled the times of Akhundov with nostalgia. At present, according to Andropov, Aliyev is feverishly preparing for the upcoming visit to Baku by Brezhnev himself, pouring

On this occasion, a golden bust of the General Secretary weighing 15 kilograms, picking up diamonds and antiques, since the weakness for these items of both Brezhnev himself and his family members was well known.

And the time for action was rapidly running out.

Andropov's compatriot in Stavropol, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU Fyodor Kulakov, who is in charge of agriculture in the Politburo, shared all the views of the chief of the secret police and was practically the only person whom Andropov not only counted on, but could really rely on.

Energetic and resolute, Kulakov was much younger than most of the elderly Kremlin rulers. While still able to work hard and fruitfully, Kulakov was a strong supporter of radical reforms. His star rose rapidly in the time of Khrushchev, but also rapidly set. Khrushchev sent him into an honorary "exile" to Stavropol, where he met Andropov. The essence of Kulakov's proposals to save the country was a radical reform of the state-party apparatus, replacing the nomenklatura with the institution of officials with legal privileges for civil servants and the strictest control over their income.

This was at one time a dream of Khrushchev himself, but he not only did not dare to take any drastic steps, but, frightened of the possible consequences, removed Kulakov from himself.

Kulakov took an active part in the conspiracy that led to the removal of Khrushchev from power in 1964, gathering all the main participants in the coup in the hunting lodge of the Teberdinsky Reserve in Stavropol and polishing the last details. Soon, returned back to Moscow, Kulakov realized that he had been deceived by the conspirators. They not only did not want any reforms, but, on the contrary, quickly curtailed even the little that Khrushchev managed to start.

Finding a like-minded person in Andropov, Kulakov perked up. Both understood that no reforms were possible until all the threads of supreme power converged in their hands. "If an infinitely rare fate falls to a person," Kulakov believed, "then one must seem worthy of it. Not trying to use it is already a crime! Andropov was in complete agreement with him. Both were convinced communists and firmly believed in their plan, although it was as utopian as all communist ideas, which in practice could only lead to what they led to.

The plan was as follows: iron discipline is imposed in the country from top to bottom. At the same time and in a coordinated way, there is a rout of all dissent, mafia structures and the nomenklatura. There is some redistribution of benefits from top to bottom, but under strict centralized control, and depending on the increase in labor productivity. In agriculture, the famous "Ipatov method" is being introduced everywhere, on which Kulakov made a name for himself. After a merciless purge of the party, the CPSU is also being reorganized, in which it was planned to have not one, but two general secretaries, a Central Committee reduced by a factor of three and a halved apparatus ... "Kremlin dreamers," as Herbert Wells once noted, however, on a different occasion. But they were not dreamers. They just didn't want to lose everything.

The plan drawn up by them in two copies contained on its four typewritten pages 42 references to the "iron discipline", which they still hoped to induce in a country decomposed to the limit.

The third "dreamer" who was sympathetic to the plan being developed was Pyotr Masherov, the party boss of Belarus, a candidate member of the Politburo. In case of success

he was promised the post of prime minister and full membership in the Politburo.

The target of the next blow to the nomenklatura stronghold was Sergei Medunov, the party lord of the Krasnodar Territory, a personal friend of Brezhnev, who openly considered the region entrusted to him as his feudal fiefdom.

Confident in complete impunity, Medunov lost all caution, openly took bribes, converted the wealth of the region into dollars, frankly boasted of his accounts in several Western banks, executed and pardoned his "vassals", completely ignoring any laws and regulations. The dossier on Medunov Kulakov and Andropov was collected over several years. A great service in this matter was rendered to them by the young secretary of the Stavropol Regional Committee, left by Kulakov in Stavropol after leaving for Moscow - Mikhail Gorbachev, since the Krasnodar Territory was in the neighborhood. Andropov and Kulakov had high hopes for the young party secretary. Andropov himself often spoke with Gorbachev and became convinced that he fully shared his views, was personally devoted to him and had long-standing, strong ties with the service headed by Andropov.

In the Stavropol Territory there was the main resort area of the country - the region of the Caucasian Mineral Waters. Nomenklatura dachas, sanatoriums and clinics, naturally inaccessible to ordinary people, were concentrated in this fertile region with mild, dry winters and cool summers. According to the old custom of the Russian pre-revolutionary aristocracy - to leave with their families "on the waters" - Kremlin leaders, apparatchiks from the Central Committee, ministers, party bosses of large cities and regional committees, editors of central newspapers and generals constantly came here to improve their health with their spouses and children.

Gorbachev, the party governor of the region, personally met the most important guests, escorted them to their luxurious mansions, visited from time to time, gradually establishing the closest relations with the country's top leaders. He collected invaluable information, since meeting with the highest representatives on vacation, where you play the role of a hospitable host, is not at all the same as meeting them in Moscow at meetings of the Central Committee in a faceless mass of regional secretaries. Here you can learn a lot more and a lot more carefully suggest.

In one of the hospitals for the highest party elite, in the "Red Stones" near Kislovodsk, Andropov also came from time to time, preferring this resort to many others. It was his "small homeland". The powerful chief of the KGB was born (June 15, 1914) nearby - at the Nagutskaya station.

Andropov lived in the "Red Stones" in a secluded, strictly guarded mansion, not accepting anyone, except for the KGB generals who flew in from Moscow and ...

Mikhail Gorbachev, whose car the guards always let through to the boss without hindrance.

One of Gorbachev's main tasks, as already mentioned, was to collect dirt on Medunov. Medunov's dossier was full of documentary and witness statements collected by Gorbachev. It turned out that in the Krasnodar Territory, and especially in the fabulous zone of the Black Sea resorts in the Sochi region, corruption and bribery in the party and state apparatus received a completely official status. To buy a car, get an apartment, get a promotion, get into an educational institution, be accepted into the party, and even get a hotel room for the night, it was necessary to pay a bribe.

Moreover, each official knew how much he should keep for himself, and how much to transfer to the district committee. They also knew how much to transfer upstairs. Streams of money merged into a full-flowing river in Medunov's pocket. Moreover, it was the Krasnodar Territory that turned out to be a transit zone for a multimillion-dollar foreign exchange operation for secret sales abroad.

black caviar in cans of Pacific herring. The threads clearly led to Moscow, to the cabinets of ministers, and from there to the Kremlin.

However, very little depended on the quantity and accuracy of evidence incriminating Medunov in criminal activity. The party boss of the Krasnodar Territory belonged to the level of the non-judicial and untouchable nomenklatura. The agreement, concluded after decades of Stalin's bloody nightmare, continued to operate, and Brezhnev was not going to not only change it, but also to make any adjustments to this agreement. Protecting his appointees, the general secretary protected himself, and only on this was the whole strength of his power based. And it was obvious to everyone that Andropov was interested in Medunov precisely because of his close position to Brezhnev. By dumping Medunov, Andropov hoped to dump Brezhnev as well, otherwise what would be the point of getting in touch with Medunov at all. It was possible to take any of the 181 secretaries of regional committees or regional committees to get the same bouquet of crimes, even the same Gorbachev. Andropov knew better than anyone about the affairs of the young Stavropol secretary. For example, when Shevardnadze, on the orders of Andropov, put things in order in his native Georgia, replacing all officials from top to bottom with his Chekists and stuffing Georgian prisons with former dignitaries and underground millionaires, he loudly promised to clean the capitalist pigsty of the republic to the bone. However, most of the businessmen of the so-called "shadow economy" managed to escape and even evacuate their enterprises. They fled not far - practically to the neighboring Stavropol Territory. The vast majority of these were jewelers who made rings, bracelets, chains and the like by order of the defeated nomenclature and took with them all their raw materials - gold, silver, platinum, diamonds and other precious stones. Many also took out the "gold reserves" of the nomenklatura entrusted to them, that is, the "gold of the party". However, it was not difficult to trace where they fled from Georgia. Having settled on the other side of the Caucasus Range, the "refugees" from Georgia began to successfully develop the "shadow economy" in the Stavropol Territory.

Shevardnadze, who caught his enemies almost in Brezhnev's waiting room and sent them back to Tbilisi on special flights for trial and reprisal, and in this case began to act with his characteristic decisiveness, hoping, as always, for Andropov's support. He telephoned Gorbachev and demanded the immediate arrest and deportation to Georgia of all persons listed on a special list sent to the regional prosecutor's office. Having become the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, Shevardnadze believed in his own power so much that he even introduced Russian as the state language in the republic, justifying Moscow's trust and causing a whole storm, especially among the Georgian intelligentsia.

Therefore, a call to some kind of regional secretary was for Shevardnadze more an act of bureaucratic etiquette than a necessity. Therefore, one can imagine the amazement of the Tbilisi ruler, who received a firm refusal from Gorbachev.[34]

It seems to us that the matter here is much more serious. Preparing a plot against Brezhnev, Andropov needed funds and tried to enlist temporary support from the bigwigs of the "shadow economy", hiding from them the fact that his plans provided for their complete extermination.

Enraged Shevardnadze, reminding Gorbachev of the insignificance of his position ("Think about who you are and who I am"), immediately complained to Andropov. However, to Shevardnadze's great surprise, nothing happened. The secretary of the regional committee, whom Shevardnadze quite rightly considered lower than himself in rank in the strictest "table" of the party nomenclature, turned out to be in fact more powerful and more influential than him, although in this case it was a direct violation of the law. And their patron was the same - Andropov. In the forthcoming struggle he needed Gorbachev much more than the Georgian Shevardnadze.

By this time, Brezhnev was already seriously ill. In 1976 he suffered a severe stroke;

doctors hardly managed to bring the Secretary General out of a state of clinical death. From time to time, the leader of the party and state fell into a completely senile state, demonstrating, for the amusement of the whole world, his purely childish love for orders, trinkets and bright Western stickers.

The nomenklatura, which always dreamed of just such a general secretary who had fallen into childhood, did everything possible to ensure that Brezhnev retained all his posts, because it was difficult to imagine a better cover for the global plundering of the country. Brezhnev was awarded the title of Marshal of the Soviet Union, awarded the Order of Victory. The tragic history of the country turned into the wildest farce. True, Stalin even had two Orders of Victory, and he was not a marshal, but a generalissimo. But there was still time...

Several attempts by Andropov to send Brezhnev to retirement, and in the election of a new general secretary to install Kulakov in this post, were unsuccessful.

The nomenklatura prepared to defend Brezhnev to the last. Using forceful methods and proven methods of party intrigues, deftly operating with compromising information accumulated on each of the members of the Politburo and the Central Committee, Andropov and Kulakov achieved a compromise option: Brezhnev retains the recently acquired nominal post of Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the post of General Secretary of the party passes to Kulakov. This issue was considered resolved, and the country and the world began to prepare for it ahead of time, first organizing a "leak" of information to Western newspapers, and then starting to speak openly about it at closed party meetings and lectures by Central Committee instructors. Andropov and Kulakov have already drawn up secret lists of nomenclature workers who are to be immediately removed from their posts and put on trial immediately after Kulakov takes up the post of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

On the night of June 16-17, 1978, Andropov was roused from his bed by a sharp ringing of the special communications telephone. The excited voice of his deputy, General Pirozhkov, announced that Kulakov was dead. Stunned, Andropov arrived at Kulakov's dacha forty minutes later with two KGB task forces.

Confused, pale faces of the guards. The furious barking of the beloved shepherd dog of the deceased, torn from the leash. Mad eyes of the wife. Kulakov was found with open veins in his personal sauna. A medical scalpel gleamed in a pool of blood.

The Central Committee almost did not react to Kulakov's death, or rather, they reacted with understanding. The day before, at the plenum, Kulakov was strongly criticized for the state of affairs in agriculture. So he got nervous and...

It was officially announced that "member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU Fyodor Davydovich Kulakov suddenly died of acute heart failure."

The confusing medical report on his death, signed by the head of the 4th "Kremlin" medical department, Yevgeny Chazov, did not even dare to be published.

Kulakov was buried in Red Square. It was striking that neither Brezhnev, nor Suslov, nor Kosygin, nor Chernenko came to the funeral. This was more than strange, since a member of the Politburo was buried, and the indisputable, elaborated to the smallest detail and still not violated even once protocol for the burial of "leaders" of such a high rank was violated. And almost no one paid attention to a relatively still young man with a red birthmark on his forehead, who had flown to the funeral from Stavropol, speaking from the podium of the Mausoleum. These people were Mikhail Gorbachev.

Senior forensic expert of the KGB Major General Lipatsky in a personal report to Andropov

expressed the firm opinion that Kulakov's veins were opened when he was unconscious. Andropov internally believed in this, although he did not understand why it was necessary for someone, having killed Kulakov, to open his veins. Although he remembered the words spoken by Kulakov more than once: "If we lose, I will open my veins." Some took his words literally.

And soon Masherov died in a car accident. He died when his armored limousine collided with a dump truck, although when the party boss of the republic followed anywhere on the highway, all traffic immediately stopped. Where did the dump truck come from? The drunk driver told how he appeared on the highway, turning out of a country road from some collective farm just between the posts. But the posts certainly had to be exactly at all possible exits on the highway.

And a little later, Andropov's personal plane crashed to the ground near Vitebsk, on which the KGB chief for some reason did not fly at the very last moment.

War has been declared.

Someone behind Brezhnev's back openly violated the nomenklatura "agreement" of 1954, starting a whole series of murders.

A whole district in the center of Moscow is occupied by a complex of massive buildings overlooking the Old Square, which houses the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. All the threads of what is happening in the country and most of the crimes that are happening in the world converge here. Countless tentacles stretch out from here, sucking all the juices from a huge country, pumping its wealth into personal safes and foreign banks. Here, terrible programs are being developed for the ideological and physical brainwashing of their own people and the dream is cherished to extend their dominion to the whole world. Here they play with the destinies of millions of people and entire states. The work in the International Department of the Central Committee, headed by Boris Ponomarev, does not stop for a minute. Instructions and methods are compiled here and sent to all countries of the world. From here huge amounts go to finance legal and illegal communist parties, rebel groups, terrorist organizations, communist, leftist and nationalist newspapers, election campaigns and government officials who take bribes, and professional criminals who want to become statesmen. According to the old Leninist methodology, the communists, having seized power in Cambodia and entered into a revolutionary rage, destroyed exactly half of the population - three million out of six. Terror starvation and executions rage in Ethiopia, in the midst of which the Palace of Congresses is being built in Addis Ababa and local communist kings, without hiding, lead a luxurious lifestyle in the chambers of the deposed emperor. Fidel Castro's army rushes to Angola to save the communist regime, which increases financial assistance to Cuba to 10 million dollars a day.

The stream is Russian gold abroad. They know how to manage.

Not without reason, in the largest bank of the CPSU abroad, the actual head is Boris Ponomarev's own son, Vladimir Ponomarev. The nomenclature has long since made its power and wealth hereditary. Bristling with nuclear missiles and fenced along the line of the European division by atomic minefields, it continues the insane work of its founder, not seeing and not wanting to see that, along with all its ideas, it falls into the very swamp into which, by their grace, the largest and richest country in the world...

Andropov saw it. He was not at all a liberal or a supporter of democracy. On the contrary, he considered the communist system the best in the world, firmly believed in the coming victory of communism throughout the world, and therefore tried to save this system from death in the swamp of luxury and corruption. He perfectly saw not only what was happening in the world's first

"the country of developed socialism", as Brezhnev proudly called the USSR, but also what is happening with the communist movement in the world.

The Communist Party of France annually receives from the USSR 2 million dollars directly through the Eurobank and 4 million dollars through the accounts of the so-called "trusted persons", shell companies and organizations. The indicated money has not been used for a long time either for the communist or for the workers' movement, as it was in the time of Thorez. The current General Secretary of the CPF, Marchais, is a convinced Nazi at heart, the chief treasurer of the party, Gosna, the editor-in-chief of L'Humanité, Andrieu, and other "leaders of the French proletariat" have long ago turned the Communist Party into something between a stock exchange and a den of thieves. Following the model of their Soviet counterparts, they bought villas and mansions, living in contentment and luxury. They are even too lazy to distribute their own L'Humanite, three-quarters of whose circulation with Sunday supplements is sent to Moscow for sale, where, after lying for some time in kiosks, it is handed over to waste paper. But that's not all. Receiving dollars from Moscow, the leaders of the French Communist Party buy shares of the most reputable French (and not only French) companies with this money, receive huge dividends, some of which they divide among themselves, and some are transferred to specific accounts of their benefactors from the USSR. The money received in this way, they again invest in shares, thus strengthening the economies of the Western countries.

The French openly invest part of the money in the gambling and porn business, receiving huge profits, and, again, distributing them among their own and Soviet nomenklatura.

"Over the past 30 years," informants from Paris reported, "tens and tens of billions of dollars have passed through Mr. Ghosn's personal account. Moreover, they went in two directions, one of which is Eurobank, owned by the CPSU. Gosna himself got into the newspapers when, having built a chic villa on the Cote d'Azur, he ordered to enclose a section of the beach adjacent to the villa with a blank fence.

He constantly saw fenced beaches in the USSR, and this made an indelible impression on him. And so it should live, fenced off from the people, a real Marxist party - the communist nobility. However, France had not yet become communist, and the authorities demanded that the fence be removed. Gosna refused. The case ended up in court, where the treasurer of the Communist Party, blazing with proletarian fury, demanded that he be shown the law according to which, he, the proletarian, has no right to own only a quarter mile of the Mediterranean beach (after all, in the country of the "victorious proletariat" the beaches around the party mansions are not only fenced, but are also protected from land and from the sea).

They found a law, signed by Louis XIV, stating that all the country's beaches are public property. And at the same time, the French communists had the audacity to demand from Moscow additional appropriations for any more or less relevant event, whether it be a strike, a demonstration, or a celebration of the L'Humanite newspaper, at which they try to sell the remnants of the circulation not sent to the USSR. Both paper and paint for this newspaper are sent from Moscow. Moreover, the paint is first purchased in Germany, although it is much easier for the French to do it themselves. But at least they release "Humanite" themselves, and thank God!

And the American Communist Party was not even going to publish two of its newspapers. They are printed (and written) in Moscow, in the printing house of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and they are sold, basically, also in the USSR. The main buyers are the departments of foreign languages of universities and students who rent language "thousands" on these newspapers. The US Communist Party itself has long turned into some kind of gang of professional parasites, which does absolutely nothing, but every year it carefully "milks" 2 million dollars out of Moscow. At the same time, he shamelessly misinforms Moscow about some of his successes in the public life of the United States, each time promising the victory of his candidate, Gus Hall, in the next presidential election and demanding a couple of million more for the election campaign.

Apparently, Hall contrived to give someone a bribe at the Moscow Institute of the USA and Canada, since all the recommendations of this academic institution regarding the possibility of the Communists to get their presidential candidate in the next election sounded something like this: "The authority of the US Communist Party, despite the repressive policies of the ruling circles is constantly growing, rallying millions of ordinary Americans around the vanguard of the US working class. And the powerful voice of the proletariat in the elections can be heard."

The fact that the Western Communist Parties, regularly receiving money from Moscow, spend part of this money on bribes to the Soviet party nomenclature, it was well known. But the US Communist Party broke all records. Gus Hall, for some of his unknown merits, knocked himself out of Moscow an annual allowance of 100 thousand dollars, having spent fifty thousand dollars for this in Moscow. This allowance grew year by year, apparently due to inflation, and once reached as much as two million. And although it was clear to everyone that Gus Hall was buying some real estate in the United States for the Central Committee apparatus, according to tradition, without paying taxes, nothing could be done, except to hand him over to the tax authorities. Andropov was often tempted to do just that.

Conducting any intelligence activity through the US Communist Party turned out to be completely impossible, since it turned out that, on the one hand, it was filtered by FBI informants, and on the other hand, by Israeli intelligence. In fact, the Communist Party received money for the very fact of its existence, which was supported by bribes received by someone in the apparatus of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The Communist Party of Germany at least brought some benefit, serving as a transmission link in the supply of money to terrorist groups like the "Red Army Faction" and the like. The Italian "Red Brigades" and even Middle Eastern terrorists were supplied through this channel. The Communist Party did not burden itself with any other activity, sometimes providing cover for failed STASI agents from the GDR.

The Communist Party of Finland received from Moscow annually from one and a half to two million dollars. There were special interests here, also in no way connected with Marxism-Leninism. The party, as it were, served as an intermediary between the commercial structures of the country of Suomi and the apparatus of the CPSU in the distribution of Finnish goods across the vast territory of the country of developed socialism, supplying the nomenclatura and the speculators associated with it with Finnish refrigerators, furniture, cottages, saunas and used Western cars. At home, the party was engaged in the distribution of Soviet orders to shipbuilding firms, printing and paper-making enterprises, as well as the supply of Soviet timber, in general, honestly earning the money allocated to it, earning a little money on bribes and providing its accounts for storing and laundering especially dashing money The CPSU, while taking from Moscow in a divine way - 7%.

About a million were allocated annually to the Communist Party of Israel, where local communists, in the overwhelming majority, yesterday's immigrants from the USSR and Poland, frankly put the money they received into their pockets, working it off with scandals in the Knesset and calls for civil disobedience to the Arab population. But that was not the most important thing. The top leadership of the party, represented by its Secretary General Vilner, had connections in the government and in the global financial system, playing the role of a pro-Soviet lobby in the absence of diplomatic relations interrupted in 1967, taking part in the diamond business and organizing regular trips of the Soviet nomenclatura to the famous Israeli cancer prevention centers. For a fee, of course.

So it was possible to go through the list of countries of the world, wondering, admiring, indignant about the global financial activities of the CPSU and one of its exceptional features: everything came from the country. The impression was created that the CPSU had privatized the Soviet Union long ago and set itself the goal, in addition to its own enrichment, to strengthen the world capitalist system in every possible way. And like any criminal organization, the party

The Bolsheviks thought out their own security so much that it was impossible to approach it from any side. And the death of Kulakov and Masharov was the best proof of this.

Andropov understood all this very well. He did not understand only one thing: why none of the party bosses sees (and does not want to see) that the foundation of the majestic party building is sagging and falling apart, threatening to collapse the entire building, burying under its rubble both the party itself and its utopian ideas that have resulted in practice. into the creation of a criminal syndicate of murderers, thieves and profiteers.

Maybe it's already planned somewhere for the building to collapse? But where?

After the death of Kulakov, Andropov realized that he no longer had time. Either he will quickly take some unexpected steps, or he will die. On his orders, special-purpose KGB combat groups began to be secretly formed, allegedly for anti-terrorist activities. The groups were named "Alpha", "Gamma" and "Delta". Each consisted of about three hundred superbly trained and unreasoning thugs, capable of following any order.

In addition, they managed to persuade Brezhnev to transfer a couple of airborne and one tank divisions to the KGB, the army endured this insult in silence. Relations between the army and the KGB have always been deliberately based on mutual hatred. The army remembered 1938 well, when almost all the army command personnel, including three marshals, were destroyed by the Chekists. The Chekists, for their part, remembered 1954 well, when the army took revenge, gladly shooting down the entire top of the MGB, and crushing everyone who tried to resist with tanks.

However, now the army was in very bad shape. Its elite decomposed in indefatigable luxury, which was especially encouraged by Minister of Defense Ustinov, a civilian who clumsily wore a marshal's uniform, but had received a good hardening even in the Stalinist nomenklatura. He was nominated for this post by Brezhnev himself, who, having become a marshal, began to distrust all other marshals, and therefore decided to put a civilian party nomenklatura at the head of the armed forces, who was poorly versed in military matters, but personally betrayed. While the army elite was decomposing with pleasure on the nomenklatura Olympus, the army ranks were decomposing no less rapidly, but in their own way. The huge Stalinist Gulag has long since thrown out criminal ethics and criminal language on the entire Soviet society. Even academics got off on the "fanya" without noticing it. And the first victim, of course, was the army, where the customs of the wildest criminal zones flourished and cultivated, replacing both combat traditions and military discipline. The soldiers gladly mocked each other and killed each other with wild cruelty. The officers got drunk, setting a terrible example for their subordinates in this way of life.

They mocked the soldiers, in turn serving as the object of bullying by their superiors. Nepotism flourished, and theft and bribery reached proportions unthinkable in civilian life.

All this could still be reconciled if very dangerous moods had not matured in the army, resulting in a whole series of emergencies that seemed impossible in the armed forces of a nuclear superpower. Military pilot Senior Lieutenant Belenko hijacked the latest fighter jet to Japan and asked for political asylum in the United States.

The deputy political officer of the destroyer Storozhevoy, having arrested the commander, mutinied on the ship and made an attempt to escape to Sweden. The ship was intercepted at sea, stopped by air strikes, boarded by border boats. All the officers went to trial, and the hero, the political officer, captain of the 3rd rank, Sablin, was shot. Group of tank officers

decided during the next parade on Red Square to throw their tanks on the Mausoleum and start a popular uprising.

They were arrested at the very last moment. On that day, tanks were not moving along Red Square. And there were countless such cases, so Brezhnev and his entourage did not prevent Andropov from creating parallel armed forces under the flag of the KGB.

The main justification that Andropov would present to justify his actions was very serious and had no direct bearing on the disintegration of the army. At the next meeting of the Politburo, the KGB chief presented a whole package of documents, irrefutably testifying to the sharp growth of separatism in the union republics. Moreover, this separatism was skillfully and consistently implanted from above from the Central Committees of the Republican Communist Parties.

The reason was simple. The republican nomenklatura no longer wanted to pay tribute in Moscow, dreaming of complete independence and accountability to anyone. If they are not pulled up in time, the Union will collapse in one way or another. Frank fear lit up in the watery eyes of the Kremlin elders. They looked hopefully at Andropov, expecting what he would offer to save them. And Andropov, in his even and inexpressive voice, continued to enumerate the troubles of the country. Complete collapse of agriculture. If it were not for the supply of American and Canadian grain, the USSR would long ago have had to re-introduce the rationing system for food. Brezhnev suddenly opened his eyes and, with difficulty moving his semi-paralyzed jaw, said: "When, finally, will a real specialist in agriculture appear in our Politburo, and not an intriguing politician?"

There was a hint of the late Kulakov.

Andropov immediately assured the general secretary that he had already found such a person and was ready to immediately introduce him to his fellow members of the Politburo.

The elders looked at each other in surprise and stared inquiringly at the chief of the secret police. Who does he mean? Andropov named Gorbachev.

Sympathy shone in the eyes of the elders. The name Gorbachev was associated by everyone with pleasant and useful weeks of enjoyment in the elite health resorts of Stavropol. Everyone remembered the courtesy, courtesy, shyness and even some timidity of the First Secretary there. And his exceptional youth. To each of them he was fit for sons. He is not dangerous. You can take it to Moscow. Let raises agriculture, once a specialist. (Many, not without reason, believe that if Gorbachev had been secretary in any other place, say, in the Voronezh Regional Committee, Andropov would never have been able to drag him to Moscow so quickly and easily. It's hard to say, but if Andropov wanted to, he dragged him. The whole question is tom: would you like to?).

On the evening of September 19, 1978, a special-purpose train carrying Comrade Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, made an unexpected stop at the Mineralnye Vody railway station. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, accompanied by his assistant, Konstantin Chernenko, came out onto the platform of the resort town cordoned off by KGB officers, leaning on the hand of the head of his personal guard, General Zharov. They were met by Andropov and Gorbachev. It was a historic meeting. At a small North Caucasian railway station, four people met who were destined to succeed each other as head of the party and state in the future, and one of them was destined to destroy both the CPSU and the huge superpower called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Among the three completely obvious mediocrities appeared a genius of political intrigue, which history has not known since

the times of the Middle Ages. Within minutes, the issue of Gorbachev's transfer to Moscow was resolved. Shaking hands with the young Stavropol secretary, Brezhnev muttered: "Agriculture is very important. You are a specialist. Save the country." "I will save the country," Gorbachev replied, bowing his head respectfully before the party leader. The bloodstain on Gorbachev's balding forehead cut across the General Secretary's eyes. But it was red, which was a good omen...

Brezhnev went to Baku to see in practice how Andropov's people put things in order in the national republics, rooting out corruption and all thoughts of separatism. (Very little time will pass, and "Andropov's man", Heydar Aliyev, who met Brezhnev in Baku, will even try to break away from Azerbaijan and declare the Nakhichevan region sovereign. Everyone is tired of the tribute). Andropov hoped that after his visit to Baku, Brezhnev would give him "carte blanche" to carry out similar operations in Central Asia, following the Caucasian model, with a subsequent strike from there on Ukraine, where Brezhnev's henchman, Shcherbitsky, was sitting as an unsinkable satrap.

With all his guts, honed in party intrigues and in many years of work, Andropov felt that his hour was approaching. And in order to speed up this hour, it was necessary to shake up the huge empire, bring it out of hibernation and, taking advantage of the decrepitude of the party leadership, take all the reins of government into their own hands. This required the very emergency situation that Andropov hoped for from the very beginning of his tenure as KGB chief, even when he made recommendations for the entry of troops into Czechoslovakia.

The cowardly Czechs thwarted his plan. Now he had a new opportunity. After the overthrow of the Shah in Iran, when Islamic fundamentalists came to power, the entire Middle Eastern region was destabilized.

Waves of Islamic fundamentalism, rapidly spreading, rolled over the Soviet Central Asian republics, prompting the local party leadership, which was up to its neck in theft, to think more and more about breaking with Moscow and joining the world of Islam.

Nationalist and anti-Russian sentiments were skillfully fueled in the republics. So far without any anti-communism. This shattered and divided region was itself asking for Soviet intervention. The main stabilizing factor in the region - rich and strong militarily, and even stronger in its alliance with the United States - Iran ceased to exist in the blood and chaos of the Islamic revolution. The United States was declared the main enemy of Islam, the American embassy in Tehran was destroyed, but at the same time, the local Communist Party was also defeated, and its leaders were publicly hanged. Unrest began in Afghanistan.

The temptation was huge. A short blow through Afghanistan against Iran and Pakistan instantly brought the USSR to the non-freezing waters of the Indian Ocean and to the world's oil reserves.

A short, victorious military operation would give, in addition to all other benefits, the opportunity to restore order in the country, interrupt the policy of detente and various "Helsinki processes" that is ruining the country, destroy dissent, stop the pernicious influence of the West, to strengthen industrial and everyday discipline, to rally the party and once again put it on a fighting course under its own leadership. Andropov saw no better place to carry out this plan than Afghanistan.

On April 27, 1978, a communist coup took place in Afghanistan, which Andropov's people had been preparing for several years. The democratic government of Mohamed Daoud was overthrown by one of the communist factions called "Democratic

People's Party of Afghanistan, and Taraki, a direct agent of Moscow, became president. Massive economic and financial assistance from the USSR immediately followed. Thousands of Soviet "advisers" poured into Afghanistan. The communist government of Taraki, acting according to the method of "the only true teaching", immediately began executions, the demolition of mosques and mass expropriation. The answer was a popular uprising. Only an idiot could challenge a Muslim country like this. The uprising expanded, and the imminent fall of the communist regime became a foregone conclusion. The West did not react at all. They held their breath so as not to frighten Moscow. Naturally, a squabble immediately began in the communist elite of Kabul. On September 14, 1979, the prime minister of the new regime, Amin, shot President Taraki and declared himself president. Taraki was killed at the moment when he was preparing to sign an appeal to the Soviet Union to send troops to help to pacify the rebellious people. Amin was against it, trying to convince Moscow that bringing troops into Afghanistan would be a huge mistake that would only have disastrous consequences, and that he would deal with the uprising on his own. Uprisings in Afghanistan are commonplace. No wonder the ancestral king Abdullah used to say: "Afghanistan is a beehive where there are many bees, but no honey." Moscow simply does not understand the situation.

Such a mood of Amin frustrated all Andropov's plans.

In Moscow, at a meeting of the Politburo, Andropov produced documents showing that Amin was a longtime CIA agent. He does not call the USSR for help, because he intends to call the Americans for help. The Afghan army, trained and re-equipped by the Americans, will immediately begin provocations on our borders, relying on American missile bases and airfields that will instantly appear on Afghan soil. The consequences are hard to imagine.

Gromyko, USSR Foreign Minister, who was present at the meeting, confirmed that there was information from his Ministry that Amin was preparing an appeal to the Americans for help (Gromyko's wife got involved in smuggling diamonds, and Gromyko could not argue with Andropov in anything). According to a Soviet resident in Kabul, Amin allegedly even said: "Praise be to Allah, the Americans will soon come here and put things in order for us!" Soviet intelligence even managed to record this exclamation on film. All this was the purest lie.

The resident in Kabul sent message after message, trying to prevent the entry of Soviet troops. Materials proving that both Taraki and his entire party were puppets, whose activities were aimed at direct involvement of the USSR in a major regional conflict, fell into the hands of the Soviet residency. For this, Taraki received 40 million dollars, which he had to share with his accomplices, but, of course, did not do this, and therefore died. Hafizullah Amin is the only ethnic figure in this gang. He is most afraid of a direct clash between the USSR and the USA on the soil of Afghanistan. No one attached importance to these documents, although they were reported to Andropov.

Andropov has never been to America, even incognito, but Brezhnev has been, and not just like that, but with all the ceremonies of an official visit. He liked it there. He was the first to introduce the fashion to keep bottles with bright American stickers and pyramids of blocks (or packs) of American cigarettes behind the glass doors of the expensive Finnish "wall". This fashion quickly spread through the nomenclature (the way of life of the leader is the way of life of the era), from it it got into the merchant aristocracy and further to everyone who could afford it. Therefore, when he heard the words "the Americans will come and put things in order," the Secretary General sighed wearily.

And then he turned to Marshal Ustinov with the question: "How long does the army guarantee to restore order in Afghanistan?" Ustinov, apparently confusing Afghanistan with

Czechoslovakia, firmly promised that in two weeks the order would be complete. "Well, at the most in a month," Andropov added, "and we will return the troops home." Although I never intended to do so. "But what about discharge? Chernenko asked. "They will freeze our loans, Leonid Ilyich!"

Brezhnev glanced at Gromyko. He smiled his shy, sad smile: "What kind of detente is this, Leonid Ilyich, if they plan to blackmail us with their missiles from the territory of sovereign Afghanistan?"

Brezhnev sat with his eyes closed. Five gold stars of the Hero gleamed dully on his jacket. Without opening his eyes, the Secretary General said: "So that there must be an appeal to us with a call for military assistance. All".

The bodyguards who jumped up lifted the general secretary from his chair and took him to the next room. It was time to give injections, on which the ruler of the sixth part of the land was kept. But Amin was relentless. He did not want to hear anything about the introduction of any foreign army into the territory of his country, and even more so to call for an invasion.

On December 2, 1979, Andropov's personal representative, KGB Lieutenant General Paputin, flew to Kabul. His task was to persuade Amin. If this failed, Paputin would have to organize Amin's abduction and his delivery to Moscow. It would be easier to talk to him here. Amin stood firm. He won't allow an invasion. On December 22, a group of some thugs in turbans and dressing gowns attacked the house where employees of numerous Soviet missions and missions lived. After killing two dozen citizens of the USSR, the extremists cut off their heads and carried them on pikes through the streets of Kabul. The police opened fire.

Throwing their heads on the ground, the killers fled. The police noticed that most of the turbans were tied incorrectly. On December 23, Amin was given a note that "the Soviet government is forced to take its citizens under protection, since the Afghan side is not coping with this task, as evidenced by the bloody incident on December 22."

While Amin pondered the answer, the invasion began. It was clearly planned according to the Czechoslovak model. On December 24, units of the 105th Guards Airborne Division landed at the Bagram airfield, 50 kilometers north of Kabul. At the same time, the Soviet "advisers" neutralized the Afghan units, organizing a park stump in tank units, blocking communications and detaining all the top leadership of the Afghan army at a banquet. The combat vehicles of the paratroopers broke into Kabul on the move, taking control of the strategic points of the capital. A special KGB unit ("Delta") surrounded the Daruloman Palace south of Kabul, where President Amin was. While "Delta" surrounded the presidential palace, General Paputin was still trying to persuade Amin to officially turn to the USSR for military assistance or resign, giving up his post to Andropov's direct protege, Babrak Karmal, who was in Czechoslovakia.

Seeing that his palace was surrounded, Amin shot Paputin^[35] and, having gathered his bodyguards, accepted an unequal battle with the paratroopers who burst into the palace. Amin's corpse was found in one of the corridors of the palace. The plan fell through. Amin died, but did not succumb to Andropov's provocation. It was already a scandal that never managed to be glossed over. Soviet troops invaded the territory of a sovereign state, killed the president and occupied the country. The world gasped.

Karmal's belated appeals could no longer deceive anyone. But there was nowhere to retreat.

The 357th and 66th motorized rifle divisions entered Afghanistan through Kushka and other border points. They occupied the cities of Herat and Farah in the west of the country. At the same time, the 360th and 201st divisions, advancing on Termez, crossed the Amu Darya and captured the strategic Salang tunnel. The Soviet Union spent ten years building in Afghanistan

highway, which was given the name "Friendship". Less than a month after the completion of the work, Soviet tanks already appeared on the highway.

But the script immediately began to differ sharply from the Czechoslovak one. The popular uprising took on hitherto unknown forms. Even women and children took up arms. Four more divisions were urgently deployed to Afghanistan. The number of occupation troops reached 150 thousand people. The Soviet Union plunged into the longest and most difficult military adventure in terms of consequences, which, in the end, was one of the main reasons for its own death.

Rejoicing reigned in Washington. The trap worked. American and European weeklies came out in colorful covers with the image of a shaggy, brutalized bear with bloody fangs and burning eyes, walking over torn corpses, but with its paw caught in a death trap. On the trap was the inscription "Afghanistan".

But that was not all. In order to ensure the Afghan adventure, it was decided, just in case, to neutralize Iran as well, since any surprises could be expected from it in this situation. Having lost the United States as an ally, weakened by the revolutionary breakdown of age-old structures, Iran was marked as the next victim after Afghanistan. In the meantime, it was necessary to divert the attention of the leaders of the Islamic revolution from Afghanistan. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, "a progressive leader of a socialist orientation," was urgently summoned to Moscow. He was bluntly told that the moment had come when he could solve all the old border disputes with Iran in the simplest way - through the military seizure of the disputed territories. With weapons, fuel and everything else necessary for waging war, the Soviet Union promised to supply Baghdad as much as needed and in any quantities. Hussein agreed, but demanded that for each year of the war, 500 million dollars be transferred to his personal account in a Swiss bank, taking into account inflation. Expensive? It will be more expensive when Iran strikes Afghanistan and raises a gazavat in Central Asia.

And Iraqi troops invaded Iran, starting a terrible, bloody eight-year war, very reminiscent of the number of victims and tactics of the First World War. Israel's two mortal enemies clashed before the eyes of an astonished world. "Such a gift," said Israeli Prime Minister Begin, "the Lord has not sent us since the days of 'manna from heaven.'" And we will try to ensure that this war never ends. And he gave the order to the Israeli Air Force, just in case, to bomb the nuclear reactor near Baghdad, which was done. Scolding what the world stands for, Zionism, Hussein sent his planes to bomb Tehran. Iranian heavy artillery shelled Basra, the pearl of the Persian Gulf, from where Sinbad the Sailor went on his voyages. Under the thunder of this cannonade, Israel invaded Lebanon, destroying the entire military infrastructure of the Palestine Liberation Organization, including warehouses with a huge amount of Soviet weapons, for the creation of which (PLO) the Soviet Union has swelled one and a half billion dollars over the past ten years. And funerals and zinc coffins were already on their way from Afghanistan to the USSR, overtaking trains with the wounded and crippled. The army, for the umpteenth time, was not ready for combat operations. Under the shadow of the megaton nuclear warheads that Moscow strategists relied on, the army, like the rest of the country, rapidly fell behind world standards.

Communication was unreliable, uniforms and equipment were worthless. No one ever heard of field blood transfusion machines or cooler flasks. There was no decent combat helicopter capable of operating in high altitude conditions. The food was of poor quality. An epidemic of hepatitis broke out in parts. No one could figure out the Italian, American and Israeli mines that the partisans laid in tens of thousands at every turn. Young guys with severed legs filled the Soviet hospitals. It turned out that no one is able to provide them not only with wheelchairs, but even with simple prostheses.

"The agony of communism," The New York Times stated everything that was happening.

"The current leaders of the Kremlin are doing everything to destroy their own empire. What is their purpose in doing so?"

So who did Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov work for? If he had been an agent of the CIA, the Intelligence Service, or the Mossad, or all the Western intelligence agencies combined, then he would hardly have been able to do more for the West than he did.

Of course, he was not an American agent recruited during the war years, just as his predecessor Beria was not an English agent. But now it is quite obvious that Andropov, having perfectly studied him, was excellently used by the Western special services "in the dark." There is already a huge amount of material showing how painstakingly American intelligence worked, preparing a trap for us in Afghanistan. Mountains of disinformation were handed over to the KGB.

The contradictions tearing apart the various departments of the KGB, as well as the fact that the main forces of the KGB were thrown into the traditional struggle against their own people, were perfectly used. Such conditions have always been considered ideal for foreign intelligence activities, especially in states such as the USSR, whose general backwardness from the civilized world is most pronounced in an exceptionally low intelligence culture. However, this is a separate issue.

If it was not clear to the Americans what goals Andropov was pursuing, then for Andropov himself they were perfectly clear.

Airborne combat vehicles were still rolling out of the huge hatches of military transport aircraft at the Bagram airfield, when a whole brigade of operatives broke into the apartment of academician Andrei Sakharov and, without presenting any warrants or orders, grabbed the father of the Russian hydrogen bomb, stuffed him into a car and delivered him to a closed for foreigners city of Gorky. As it turned out later, mainly due to the fact that he could not comment on the invasion of Afghanistan. That same evening, the jammers howled piercingly, clogging the Western radio stations broadcasting in Russian. A wave of arrests, mysterious assassination attempts, arson and murder swept across the country. The victims were completely innocent people: various unrecognized poets, artists and avant-garde musicians, whom Andropov considered the most dangerous for the existing regime. Courts and tribunals, working hard, began to issue standard sentences of "seven years in prison and five years in exile for anti-Soviet agitation; for the storage and distribution of anti-Soviet literature; for other activities aimed at weakening the Soviet system ...". The reason could be anything; poems written on the table, an American magazine, Solzhenitsyn's book, a portrait of Sakharov...

The great work of cleansing the nation from filth has begun!

In this carefully crafted environment, Andropov finally felt his strength. The whole country felt it too: from a student who prints the works of Solzhenitsyn or Avtorkhanov from negatives at night, to an influential nomenklatura from the Central Committee who accepts bribes from Uzbekistan.

In one fell swoop, all the dark personalities from the environment of Galina Brezhneva are arrested. Based on their testimony, a huge case of smuggling diamonds, rubies and emeralds is unfolding. The testimonies of those arrested present the daughter of the General Secretary as the organizer of the crime, and her husband, Colonel General Churbanov, as an active member of the criminal gang and the biggest bribe-taker. From Churbanov, who holds the post of Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, leads a direct trail to the Minister of Internal Affairs, General of the Army Shchelokov and the main party ideologist Suslov. And behind them already looms the silhouette of the Secretary-General himself.

The operation was carried out with such swiftness that at first no one had time to react. Andropov's deputy, Brezhnev's brother-in-law, Army General Tsvigun, having recovered from the shock, began to make every effort to disrupt the investigation. Two important witnesses disappeared, one of those arrested hanged himself in his cell, a KGB investigator Lieutenant Colonel Lyakhov was thrown under a subway train, his briefcase was stolen. General Tsvigun was assigned to Andropov for that, in order to prevent such outrages ... But the jokes were over. On January 19, 1982, General of the Army Tsvigun is found in one of the service apartments with a shot through his head. The search at Tsvigun's personal apartment, carried out under the pretext of seizing secret documents, stunned the battered operatives. Six three-liter jars with precious stones were found in the hiding places, all the hollow parts of the old iron double bed with massive metal balls were filled with diamonds. Gold bars with a total weight of 35 kilograms. One and a half million dollars in bills of 100 dollars and above.

"The Soviet people have suffered a heavy loss," Pravda wrote on January 22, 1982. - On January 19, 1982, after a long and serious illness, Army General Semyon Kuzmich Tsvigun, a member of the CPSU Central Committee, a Deputy of the Supreme Council, a Hero of Socialist Labor, and First Deputy Chairman of the KGB of the USSR, died. For more than 40 years, Comrade Tsvigun S.K. worked to ensure the security of our fatherland ... In 1939, he was sent by the party to work in the state security agencies, and since then his whole life has been connected with the hard work of the Chekist ... The memory of Semyon Kuzmich Tsvigun will forever will remain in the hearts of the entire Soviet people. Andropov, Gorbachev, Ustinov, Chernenko, Aliev, Bugaev, Shchelokov and others.

Everyone was struck by the absence of the signatures of Brezhnev and Suslov under the obituary. And also the fact that immediately after Andropov's name is Gorbachev's signature. Stands ahead of Ustinov, Chernenko and Aliyev.

Tsvigun is Brezhnev's brother-in-law. Their wives are sisters. After the search, Vera Tsvigun tried to get through to her sister, Victoria. In vain. Upon learning of the death of Tsvigun, Suslov, losing his head with fear, ordered the Taman and Kantemirov divisions to be alerted and sent to Moscow, without informing either Ustinov or Ogarkov. The divisions raised on alert tried to get confirmation of the order from the General Staff.

They knew nothing there, calling the Central Committee. They didn't know anything either. They tried to call Suslov in the Kremlin. The receptionist answered that Comrade Suslov was in his office and, apparently, was working, turning off the phone. The office was locked from the inside.

When the door was opened, they saw that the main ideologist of the party was unconscious on the floor. Arriving doctors quickly made a diagnosis: diabetic collapse. Suslov had chronic diabetes, aggravated from time to time by the Kremlin's intrigues. Evgeny Chazov personally gave Suslov an injection. The next day, Suslov died without regaining consciousness.

Western correspondents in Moscow built all sorts of versions of what was happening, seeing how the struggle for power intensified every day. Events developed rapidly, in the spirit of the most exciting western action movie.

It is not for nothing that Andropov's favorite books, who speak English tolerably well, were Forsythe's Day of the Jackal, Martin Smith's Gorky Park, and Robert Conquist's The Great Terror, and his favorite newspaper was The Washington Post.

Washington Post correspondent Bob Kaiser reported from Moscow: "TASS announced yesterday the death at the age of 79 of the main Kremlin ideologist, Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Mikhail Suslov. It is interesting to note that this is the second sudden death in the Kremlin in recent years.

a few days. On January 19, the death of Brezhnev's brother-in-law, the first deputy chairman of the KGB, General Semyon Tsvigun, was also announced. Foreign correspondents in Moscow link Tsvigun's death to the mass arrests of the leaders of the so-called "underground economy" in the Soviet Union, which continue throughout the country.

There are reports that close friends of Brezhnev's daughter Galina - circus workers and performers - were arrested, and Galina herself was interrogated. Brezhnev's son, Yuri, who holds the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, has not been to work for several days. It is assumed that the brother and sister were closely connected with the activities of the underground economic mafia, and that the KGB general Tsvigun tried to cover them up with his power and authority. Rumors circulate in Moscow that after a sharp conversation on this topic with Mikhail Suslov, Tsvigun committed suicide. His behavior angered Suslov and Brezhnev himself. These rumors are indirectly confirmed by the fact that neither Brezhnev nor Suslov signed Tsvigun's obituary, although the deceased is a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and a close relative of Brezhnev. Moreover, the body of Tsvigun, the first deputy chairman of the KGB and a member of the government, was not buried in the official government cemetery. Whether Suslov discovered the whole affair or participated in it himself, in any case, he could not live long, just as anyone who tries to make sudden moves in the corrupt quagmire of the highest Soviet leadership does not live long ... ”.

The framework of the KGB no longer suited Andropov. Nominally leaving the "office" to the unknown General Fedorchuk, he moved to the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU to the place of the late Suslov. The Politburo is in turmoil. Andropov summons his colleagues Mazurov and Kirilenko, shows them materials relating to some aspects of their laborious work, and invites them to think about their future lives. There is no one to complain to. After the scandal with his daughter, son and brother and the death of his brother-in-law, Brezhnev does not want to talk to anyone. His health is rapidly deteriorating.

Mazurov obediently resigns. Kirilenko, not understanding the seriousness of the moment, is at the next meeting of the Politburo. The guards rudely stop him, take away his pass to the Kremlin and pass on Andropov's order to go to the dacha and stay there until further notice.

Andropov and Gorbachev work almost around the clock. They are trying again to put into practice the plan that was thwarted with the deaths of Kulakov and Masherov. But now Andropov is the boss in the Politburo. The Old Square fell silent in fear. Unprecedented tension since the death of Stalin gripped the entire "Through the Looking Glass" - the fabulous land of Nomenklatura. Its leaders are weak and old, and are no longer able to resist the "thug from state security" that has broken through to the heights of power. There was every reason to be afraid. Heydar Aliyev is transferred to Moscow from Baku. Everyone remembers his merciless executions in Azerbaijan and the monstrous terms of imprisonment, which he paid off to the nomenklatura. Now he will apply the methods worked out in Azerbaijan on an all-Union scale.

The next blow finally falls on Medunov. He is summoned to Moscow ostensibly for a meeting at the Central Committee. Andropov announces his release from the post of First Secretary of the Krasnodar Territory Committee. Medunov's house in Krasnodar is being searched under the pretext of repairs before the new party boss moves in. Four containers of confiscated valuables are delivered to Moscow. Only Brezhnev's personal intervention saves Medunov. He hardly manages to get himself the post of Minister of the fruit and vegetable industry. But he understands that his career is ruined, and the days are numbered ... In Moscow, the Minister of the Fishing Industry Ishkov and his deputy Rykov are suddenly arrested.

During the search, more than 6 million rubles and more than a million dollars were found on each of them.

There is a direct attack on the nomenclature.

In horror, "Through the Looking Glass" rushes to Brezhnev. After all, the Secretary General is still alive! Wasn't he their benefactor and guarantor for 18 years? What's happened?!

Brezhnev himself cannot understand what is happening. Andropov, with complete reverence, almost weekly puts on the table of the General Secretary operational reports of a very interesting content for the aged leader: "... During the operation, numerous connections were revealed between the businessmen of the "underground economy" and members of the family of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Comrade Brezhnev L.I. According to the most conservative estimates, in the last three years alone, members of the family of Comrade Brezhnev L.I. received in the form of direct bribes in money and offerings in precious stones, furs, antiques and valuables stolen from museums for a total amount: Brezhneva-Churbanova and Galina Leonidovna - 3 ,1 million rubles and 600 thousand dollars, Brezhnev Yuri Leonidovich - 3.4 million rubles and 450 thousand dollars, Brezhnev Yakov Ilyich - 1.4 million rubles and 500 thousand dollars, Tsvigun Semyon Kuzmich - 4.2 million rubles and 1.5 million dollars. The above-named persons from the family of comrade. Brezhneva L.I., involved in criminal activities, provided the underground economy dealers with the patronage of various ministries and officials to receive raw materials, equipment and machinery from state funds, and also contributed to the penetration of criminal elements into high party and government posts ... "

After reading such reports, Brezhnev was silent for a long time, and then, as a rule, asked Andropov when the war in Afghanistan, which had been going on for the third year without any prospect of victory, would end. After all, Andropov promised to end this war within a month.

"To do this, you must first restore order in the country," answered Andropov.

Although what Brezhnev had to read at the suggestion of Andropov took away the last vitality from the sick old man, what Andropov himself had to read also, as they say, did not add life. But Yuri Vladimirovich was already 68 years old. And what he read was even more terrible than the exposure of the family members of the leader of the party and the state who had stolen away.

The Warsaw Pact is falling apart. The Polish "Solidarity" managed to corrupt all the countries of the Eastern Bloc. After the introduction of martial law in Poland, when the "junta" headed by General Jaruzelski came to power, strange things began to happen in the army. The marshals, humiliated by Afghanistan, where the army of the superpower cannot defeat the wild mountaineers, bleeding for the third year, seem to have seen salvation in the introduction of martial law on the model of Poland in all the countries of the Warsaw Pact, including the USSR. Materials are constantly accumulating, forcing to be extremely careful. Jokes are bad with the army, but they don't stand on ceremony with it either. The iron grip of the Special Departments subordinate to Andropov traces every movement and thought of the military leaders.

At the slightest suspicion, they do not stand on ceremony. "He died suddenly" - that's all.[36]

"On December 2, 1984, as a result of acute heart failure, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the SED, the Minister of National Defense of the GDR, General of the Army Hoffmann, died."

"December 15th. At the age of 59, as a result of heart failure, a member of the Central Committee of the HSWP, the Minister of Defense of the Hungarian Republic, General of the Army Olah, died suddenly.

December 16th. At the age of 66, as a result of heart failure, the Minister of National Defense of Czechoslovakia, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, General of the Army Dzur, died suddenly.

"On December 20, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov died."

What kind of pestilence attacked the defense ministers? Interesting, isn't it?

Now the couriers and messengers of Marshal Ustinov were running around Poland, the GDR, Hungary and even Mongolia. Coordinate the actions of friendly armies in case? .. But there are other data.

The loans that Brezhnev, at the very least, collected in the West for Jewish emigrants and traitor dissidents, ceased. Well, we won't let anyone out again, and whoever makes a peep, we'll put them in jail. And if someone cannot be imprisoned, then we will deport him and deprive him of his citizenship. The whole world gasped when the great musician, the world's first cello Mstislav Rostropovich and his wife, the outstanding opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya, were deprived of Soviet citizenship. The President of the United States himself met them at the airport, saying that it was a great honor for America to acquire such citizens. And in the Soviet Union there are no irreplaceable people, as the late Joseph Vissarionovich liked to say. And in the West there is just bacchanalia, the hysteria of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. The communist parties of Western Europe came up with some kind of "Eurocommunism" in order to somehow distance themselves from Moscow and its crimes. They probably forgot who fed them for 65 years and continues to feed them. And for what money? Even as the chairman of the KGB, Andropov could not really find out what the country's gold reserves were and how much gold was mined annually. Six different departments gave different certificates under the heading "top secret". The data ranged from 1 thousand to 10 thousand tons. No one could really say how much it is spent annually and where. The information of the State Bank and Vnesheconombank was somehow vague, the International Department and the Administration of the Central Committee referred to the lack of consolidated data, the financial commission of the Supreme Council blinked its eyes in fear, and the Ministry of Finance, referring to its own sources, stated that the country's gold reserves amounted to 2100 tons. And it didn't blush.

It was clear that the rest could only be discovered through searches.

The situation was no better with precious stones. Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Yakutia, Stepan Platonov, initiatively approached Andropov, wishing to report on the situation in the diamond mining industry, the summary figures of the annual production of rough diamonds and their mysterious disappearance. Platonov directly oversaw the diamond mining industry, and knew if not everything, then a lot. Two days later he was killed on a hunt by a shot at point-blank range. The murder was taken over by the First Secretary of the Yakut City Party Committee Solomov. The court recognized Solomov as insane and sent him to a "psychiatric hospital", from where he left two months later and was sent by the head of the department to the Magadan regional party committee. The KGB conducted its own investigation and found out that Platonov was shot dead by a senior official of the Central Committee of the CPSU, in whose honor the local party authorities staged a hunt. Platonov, as it turned out along the way, was not going to this hunt, but was summoned to it by order - the first secretary of the regional committee of the CPSU, Yakutia Chiryaev. The responsible official of the Central Committee of the CPSU calmly returned to Moscow. All that Andropov could do was to completely change the guards of the PNO Yakutalmaz and appoint General Vasilyev, whom he personally trusted, as director of the regime. On January 21, 1981, in the office of the political officer of the special police department for the protection of diamond mining facilities, General Vasilyev was killed point-blank with a shot from a Makarov pistol. The political officer himself, Colonel Tseluiko, fired. Tseluiko assured that Vasiliev committed suicide.

Vasiliev's office was searched and seized secret materials about the theft of diamonds, prepared for shipment to Moscow. Another string of murders, suicides, mysterious falls into stairwells followed, but Andropov never found out where the diamonds were floating. "We will find it during searches," he encouraged his subordinates.

Yes, there are diamonds! Millions of tons of oil went somewhere to the left, and there were no ends to be found.

But absolutely exact figures indicated that labor productivity in the country

continues to fall rapidly, and the ruble - to depreciate.

Crop failures are becoming more and more threatening every year, but for the time being, everything is forgiven to friend Gorbachev. He has no time to oversee agriculture. There are more important things.

The Kremlin intrigue is reaching a decisive stage. It is necessary to remove the last barrier separating Andropov from the pinnacle of power - Brezhnev himself.

Andropov and Gorbachev were preparing to convene an emergency meeting of the Politburo and put on the agenda the question "On the negative consequences for the country of the Brezhnev personality cult." Andropov himself is to make a report.

Gorbachev should support him in the debate. It was decided to write off Afghanistan, and the Polish Solidarity, and the weakening of the position of the USSR in the Middle East, and the collapse of the communist movement in the world, and liberalism in domestic politics, "expressed in the resolution of Jewish, Armenian and German emigration, leading to the awakening of nationalist sentiments in the Union republics and the tendency to secede from the USSR", and corruption, as well as "the weakening of the ideological education of the working people, the almost complete destruction of their faith in the ideas of communism and the total critical attitude towards the existing system". Based on this, Brezhnev was asked to retire with full honors and to sharply turn the country onto a new course. The Politburo was to approve the following long-term state policy plan:

"In the field of foreign policy:

1. Ending the war in Afghanistan with a complete and unconditional military victory.
2. Complete and final destruction of the Polish "Solidarity".
3. Full use of the advantages arising from the indecision of Western countries to resist the active actions of the Soviet Union, as can be seen in the example of Poland and Afghanistan. Provide maximum military support to the people's liberation movement throughout the world, communist and anti-imperialist forces in the countries of the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. Within the next two years after the final Sovietization of Afghanistan, to ensure control over the entire region of the Middle East, including control over the oil reserves of the Persian Gulf.
4. Use all the advantages of the emerging friction between the US and NATO countries, provoke their split and achieve complete isolation of the US in the capitalist world.

In domestic politics:

1. The most severe suppression of the dissident movement, religious sects and spiritual communities.
2. Cessation of all forms of emigration.
3. Complete registration of the entire able-bodied population and the permanent assignment of workers and employees to their enterprises, collective farms and state farms. This will make it possible to dramatically improve the economic situation and will make it possible to guarantee the distribution of foodstuffs through a network of industrial distributors exclusively for the working population.
4. Complete destruction of the "underground economy" and other manifestations of anti-Soviet and capitalist sentiments. For this purpose, to hold a series of show trials with death sentences and their public execution.
5. In connection with the tasks of the new foreign and domestic policy, provide for an increase

the size of the Soviet army by increasing the period of military service from 2 to 5 years in the ground forces and from 3 to 7 years in the navy ...".

Having familiarized himself with this project, Gorbachev cautiously remarked to Andropov that in order to implement such global plans, it would be nice to get a good loan from the United States. Otherwise, the project will not be implemented. No money left. Andropov grinned: "We will find the money. The main thing is suddenness. And the implementation of everything planned in life is firmly consistent and merciless.

"Of course," Gorbachev agreed, "the main thing is to start, and then the process will go on. But the project needs to be finalized, shown to experts. In a word, do not rush. It seems to me that it cannot be passed through the current Politburo."

"Brezhnev," Andropov said. "Of course, this is not for Brezhnev."

We decided to wait.

A week later, this project was published in the American press.

A scandal erupted.

The publication was declared a vile falsification of the CIA in order to cause another wave of anti-Soviet hysteria.

The project was typewritten in four copies. All four were kept by Andropov. He managed to introduce him to four people. Who passed it on to the West? If only Andropov knew that his personal secretary, who printed the draft, was an agent of French intelligence!

Brezhnev, still alive Brezhnev, called Andropov and asked what this meant?

Andropov replied that he could not be responsible for all the "canards" of the imperialist press.

"I can't die," Brezhnev said unexpectedly firmly. "You can't die if someone after my death will implement such crazy plans. They will destroy the country

finally".

Andropov said nothing.

And Brezhnev not only did not die, but, on the contrary, felt much better. So much better that he decided to go to Tashkent to his friend Rashidov. They tried to dissuade the old man, but he firmly decided to go. Of course, it was not just a whim, but why, remained unknown. Sharaf Rashidov met his friend, protector and benefactor with

great honors.

Brezhnev wanted to talk to the people. In the huge workshop of the local aviation plant, a rally of "active" was gathered. They equipped a platform, on which, with the help of General Zharov, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU climbed with difficulty. At that moment, when Brezhnev began his speech, out of habit, slowly and indistinctly reading the prepared speech from a piece of paper, a compressed air line broke in the workshop. There was a roar of thunder, followed by a shrill whistle. It was taken for an explosion. "Active" and the guards rushed around the shop in a panic. One of the bodyguards forced Brezhnev to the floor and lay down on him, covering the Secretary General with his body. The shock from what had happened and a slight injury from too abrupt actions of the bodyguard led to another stroke. Brezhnev was taken to the hospital already in a state of clinical death.

The resuscitation team, and for many years not a single step away from the sick leader,

brought Brezhnev back to life again, but he could neither move nor speak. But he didn't want to die. He began to recover again and even defended what was put on the podium of the Mausoleum on November 7, 1982.

Two days later, the cortege of the head of the party and state left the Kremlin's Bronevitsky Gate, heading to the area of the village of Zhukovka near Moscow, where the complex of government dachas was located. In front of the cortege, as always, turning on the sirens and flashing light signals, the cars of the traffic police special squad raced.

Behind them are black cars with security guards and Brezhnev's own limousine. Further, behind the two security cars, followed by a faithful resuscitation team, to which Brezhnev owed his life for the past six years. The cortege was still racing through the city when a wheel burst on the resuscitators' car. At high speed, the car skidded, and she almost crashed into a building. The instruction provided for an immediate stop of all the cars in the cortege, but for some reason this did not happen. Without slowing down, the entire line of cars continued to rush towards the exit from Moscow. Suddenly, Brezhnev began to have an attack of dizziness and an urge to vomit. Before leaving, he drank a glass of milk and ate a diabetic bun. Chernenko heard the general secretary complain about some strange taste of milk. But Brezhnev's capriciousness in food was known, and no one paid attention to it. Brezhnev was getting worse. The column stopped. And then it turned out that there was no car with resuscitators. It turns out that the accident was not even reported by radiotelephone. The doctor on duty, who was in the General Secretary's car, had only a suitcase with emergency care. It is said that he did his best. Brezhnev was brought to the dacha already dead.

Andropov was unanimously chosen as the new General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU. As usual, with the speed of light, an anecdote swept through the country about how these elections were held: "Comrades! Whoever is in favor of electing Comrade Andropov as General Secretary can move away from the wall, drop his hands and turn to face us!"

Like Stalin, Andropov painfully endured various anecdotes and rumors about himself. Popular rumor attributed to him the murder of Kulakov and Masharov, of course, and the murder of Tsvigun, the death of Brezhnev, the attempt on the Pope, the murder of Markov, the attempt on Reagan and many other atrocities. And although there was no evidence, no one doubted it for a minute.

But whatever it was, he achieved his goal. For the first time since 1917, the head of the secret police seized power in the country. Lenin was mortally afraid of this, constantly looking askance at his friend Felix, Stalin was also afraid of this, considering it good after a certain period to simply shoot the chiefs of the secret police, along with their apparatus and wives, as happened with Yagoda and Yezhov. The unforgettable Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria also dreamed of power, paying for his vanity with his head. Even the "iron Shurik" Shelepin dared to dream about this, but since he fell under the "nomenklatura" agreement - not to kill each other - he was not shot, but simply retired with a scandal.

For, as the legendary Minister of State Security, Viktor Abakumov, who was arrested on the orders of Stalin and shot on the orders of Khrushchev, used to say, "to lead the state is not for you ... and shake!" The shadows of the executed predecessors gathered around Andropov, inspiring and calling to action...

Andropov's first open decree was the decree "On the prohibition of citizens to keep and breed carnivorous fur-bearing animals." The decree concerned nutrias and sables (furs are also gold of the party), but was drawn up in such a way that it was not clear whether
Is he into cats or not.

And ciphers were already flying through the cities and villages of a huge country:

"To carry out arrests of all persons previously prevented by the KGB for ...

1. Anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda in written, oral and other forms.
2. For the storage and distribution of printed publications with anti-Soviet content, video materials, visual agitation and other items aimed at weakening the Soviet state and social system.
3. For the dissemination of slanderous fabrications discrediting the Soviet state and social system.
4. For religious propaganda outside the special places allotted for this, paying special attention to the Baptists, Adventists and Hare Krishnas ...
5. For currency transactions and smuggling of antiques..."

Work boiled over. Armed patrols began to detain passers-by on the streets, break into bathhouses and hairdressers, cordon off beer outlets, asking citizens why they were not at work. Thus, labor discipline was strengthened.

More and more new divisions threw themselves into the fire of the Afghan war. The Afghan guerrillas, who started the war with old British rifles from the First World War, already have heavy artillery, recoilless guns, heavy machine guns and, without exception, Kalashnikov assault rifles. All weapons were Soviet-made. Such a quantity of weapons was simply impossible to capture in battles. It could only be bought. But who?

Traces led to the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The first secretary of the embassy, Rajebov, former Minister of Justice of Tajikistan, and the second secretary Saidov, acting in contact with wealthy Afghan merchants, received gold from them in such quantities that it was possible to buy all the weapons of the 40th army operating in Afghanistan. The case was put on a grand scale with the involvement of many workers in the rear of the 40th Army. Armament came directly from the warehouses. Our soldiers trembled over each cartridge, as cartridges were sold by the millions to the enemy. Foreign "sponsors" of the partisans also got involved. A package containing 13 kilograms of gold was sent to Saidov from Saudi Arabia. Saudi merchants are accustomed to acting openly. The parcel was accidentally discovered by customs at Sheremetyevo Airport. Radzhebov and Saidov were captured and shot. But their cause continued to live until the very end of the Afghan war.

A no less interesting package came to two old men in a quiet Ukrainian village from their son, who served as the head of an outpost on the border with Afghanistan.

The parcel was valued at 15 rubles. When it was opened, it turned out to be 40 thousand rubles. The investigation yielded amazing results: all outposts receive bribes from smugglers in rubles and currency, allowing camel caravans and truck convoys to pass freely in both directions, kindly lighting the way with searchlights if it happened at night. What loads did the trucks carry, under the weight of what bales did the camels bend? The arrested border guards could not answer this. Did not know. What kind of people passed with caravans back and forth, paying with dollars? Did not know. But they paid in dollars. It was awkward to ask.

In Moscow, the leaders of the state Import and Commercial Administration, Pavlov and Smelyakov, were captured. Both worked in a big way. When entering into contracts with

representatives of foreign firms, they took bribes in the amount of 1% of the value of each contract. Foreigners paid willingly and with pleasure, because for this they could freely draw up contracts that were most beneficial for themselves and extremely unprofitable for the USSR. For a special fee, both leaders supplied foreigners with licenses "On the weakened border inspection." Such licenses were supposed only for goods sent and received by the Central Committee of the CPSU (containers from all over the world arrived daily from all over the world, filled mainly with foreign consumer goods and sent back, filled with state property. Border guards and customs officers did not even have the right to touch these containers). It turned out that such licenses are not so difficult to purchase for foreign currency from the employees of the Central Committee apparatus: one license costs \$1,000. Funny. Foreigners bought licenses in bundles and were able to import and export from the USSR whatever they wanted (including their failed or recalled agents). During a search of Pavlov, a million rubles and half a million dollars, a whole warehouse of Western "clothing" and equipment, as well as bundles of precious licenses were found. Smelyakova was more modest - only 300 thousand dollars. Both were shot as a warning to the rest.

Andropov ordered the licenses to be canceled and all their stocks to be destroyed immediately.

The Central Committee hummed like an alarmed beehive. The manager of the Central Committee, Pavlov, ardently argued to Andropov that it was impossible to change licenses. They just need to be taken into account more strictly. "Neither border guards nor customs officers should know what we are sending to our Western comrades and what we are receiving from them." It was iron logic.

Andropov had nothing to answer.

The case of the arrested Minister of the Fishing Industry Ishkov and his deputy Rykov revealed a whole criminal network in which entire regions of the country were involved. with regional committees, city committees and departments of internal affairs. From the Far East, caviar and valuable varieties of fish were delivered in various ways to Rostov-on-Don, where a huge underground transshipment base existed under the patronage of the city committee and the local police. Products went abroad, millions of dollars were divided according to the ranks of the criminals.

The special forces of the KGB seized the department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Rostov. Arrests began among workers of trade and the city committee. Gold and currency were taken out by wagons. Employees of the Ministry of the River Fleet were involved in the case. It turned out that the ships of the river fleet, in addition to delivering caviar and expensive fish to their destinations, were also engaged in their own profitable business. Goods coming from Japan, India and other exotic eastern countries were delivered along the Syr Darya across the Afghan border on ships of the river fleet: the finest silks, cambric, electronics. The theft was on a massive scale. On the territory of the USSR and Afghanistan there was a whole network of secret vaults, from where goods were resold abroad for foreign currency.

The Medunov case unleashed such a criminal network throughout the Union that the entire Ministry of the Meat, Dairy and Fruit and Vegetable Industry had to be arrested. In one fell swoop, the directors of the distilleries were arrested. In Leningrad, during a search of the director of one of these factories, in addition to cash and gold, 8,000 bottles of cognac of various brands were found. The head of the Moscow Department of Trade, Tregubov, was arrested with 130 of his employees. They were taken according to the testimony of the previously arrested and later shot director of the Moscow "Eliseevsky" grocery store - Sokolov.

Andropov hits almost blindly and always hits. It's impossible to miss.

In Moscow, the director and 17 employees of the vegetable base of the Dzerzhinsky district were arrested.

Theft of 300 thousand. The director was shot.

In Belokamensk, the director of Mezhholkhozstroy was captured, who stole 200 thousand rubles and built himself a two-story stone house. Shot.

At the Moscow plant for the processing of secondary raw materials of precious metals, the theft of gold and silver shavings worth millions of rubles is discovered.

The director, chief engineer and chief technologist were shot.

At the Chisinau plant for the production of sugar, the theft of four million rubles was discovered. The director, his deputy and chief technologist were shot.

The minister of internal affairs, Shchelokov, and his deputy, Churbanov, son-in-law of the late Brezhnev, are being removed from their posts. Both are temporarily under house arrest. The leaders of the Ministry did not hand over tons of confiscated valuables to the state, but appropriated them. Before being arrested and sent to prison, Shchelokov managed to shoot himself.

Andropov appointed Fedorchuk as Minister of the Interior, and his faithful deputy, General Chebrikov, to the vacant seat of the KGB chairman. Personnel, seemingly tested for many years, are called to Moscow: Shevardnadze, Ligachev, Ryzhkov. Together with Gorbachev, they form the apparatus of Andropov's personal power.

The fight is just beginning. The disclosure of numerous crimes clearly shows that all the threads lead to the Central Committee of the CPSU, to the very heart of "Through the Looking Glass". They were worried there. Andropov has already invaded the reserved limits of the "Through the Looking Glass", so far operating at the level of ministers, heads of departments, secretaries of district committees.

His actions are looked upon warily, but with some even a sense of approval. In the end, he returns the party to its gold, taking it from people who, by their rank, were not entitled to either own it at all, or in such quantity.

If Andropov had stopped at this level, he would certainly have ended up in the classics of Marxism. But pride killed him. He not only planned to return the gold to the party, but also to make sure that no one except him would use this gold. This was beyond the power of even Comrade Stalin, and again it was a sharp departure from the Leninist norms of party life ...

And, finally, Andropov struck a blow for which he had been preparing for a long time, since the beginning of the 70s. Impact on Central Asia.

On a warm April day in 1983, right on the street of Bukhara, the head of the UBKhSS of the city, Akhat Muzaffarov, was captured. The KGB brigade arrived from Moscow without any ceremony put handcuffs on him and sent him by plane to the capital.

At the same time, six more people from the leadership of the local police and the merchant aristocracy were arrested. The investigation quickly led to the residence of the Bukhara regional committee, "Krasnaya Dacha", right into the office of the First Secretary of the Communist Party, Abduvakhid Karimov. The famous "Uzbek case" that thundered all over the world began.

Muzaffarov, without locking himself up for a long time, quickly testified against his accomplices in bribery and embezzlement, in particular, against First Deputy Interior Minister Davydov. Without waiting for the interrogation, he committed suicide, however, in a somewhat strange way: by shooting himself in the head three times with a pistol. A series of similar "suicides" swept across Uzbekistan. From Muzaffarov and Karimov, traces went to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, Ergashev, and further from him - to Shchelokov, Churbanov, to members of the Politburo, and to the late Brezhnev. From this case, another "case of the century" spun off - about

theft in the cotton industry. The entire apparatus of the Ministry and all the chiefs of the main departments were arrested. In just four years, the amount of embezzlement amounted to four billion rubles, most of which ended up in the pockets of Minister Usmanov. The case was taken over by the investigator for particularly important cases under the USSR Prosecutor General Gdlyan and his assistant Nikolai Ivanov. Andropov personally managed to instruct them, giving them complete freedom of action. And in vain. The name of Rashidov himself immediately flashed in the file, his successor as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Usmankhodzhaev, who came to this post on the recommendation of Andropov. A series of searches yielded stunning results. During the arrest, 19 million rubles and 200 kilograms of gold were confiscated from one of the secretaries of the district committees, ingots, coins, bracelets, earrings and rings. In the Kashkadarya region, another secretary of the district committee handed over 5400 thousand rubles and 500 thousand bonds of the Golden Loan. They did not believe that they had handed over everything, and during the search they found another 10 million rubles, 300 thousand dollars and 80 kilograms of gold.

More and more new names emerged in the case: Ligachev Solomentsev, Rekunkov (Prosecutor General!), Terebilov, Gusev, Afanasiev, Georgadze. Andropov's head was spinning. The names that surfaced were a big surprise for him, ready for anything.

Now he was faced with a dilemma: either strike at the very heart of Through the Looking-Glass, or stop there. But then the whole struggle is useless if you keep the headquarters and the brain of corruption. A sequential list of searches and arrests of the top leaders of the party nomenclature was carefully drawn up.

We decided to start with Georgadze. For a long time he held a rather high position of secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, but he was not even a member of the Central Committee, having been a candidate all his life.

The operation was prepared in the deepest secrecy, because Georgadze, if he was not in the heart of the nomenklatura, then he could not be called a peripheral figure either. He had been sitting in the Kremlin since the time of Comrade Stalin, and the leader even patronized him, never planting him. Investigators swept 8 kilograms of diamonds and diamonds, 100 gold bars (20 kg each), 40 million rubles, 2 million dollars, piles of rings, earrings, rings, pendants, paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens, Van Dyck from the safes and hiding places of the Georgadze house, Aivazovsky. Just 6 billion rubles.

It was breathtaking to think what could be found in those who are of higher rank for such a relatively small fry as Georgadze. After all, he was not even a member of the Central Committee!

It was not possible to verify this.

Almost immediately after that, Andropov ... disappeared.

They fooled the country and the world for a long time that he had caught a cold, and they showed Yuri Vladimirovich again publicly already in a coffin.

Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev held the inconsolable widow by the arm. No one was surprised - after all, he was the right hand and friend of the deceased.

Part 3. Escape with prey

Evil tongues claimed that Andropov was killed by the demons of Korea, because on his orders a South Korean Boeing with almost three hundred passengers was shot down. The demons have awakened and

having destroyed Andropov, they decided at the same time to destroy the state, which received the nickname "Evil Empire" with the light hand of the American President Reagan. So, at least, the Seoul newspapers wrote in all seriousness. The old statistics state that in 1913 Russia ranked from 3rd to 12th place among other countries in terms of various indicators of living standards, and in terms of industrial product growth it was the absolute first, and by a fairly solid margin. In 1985, the USSR ranked 68th in the world in terms of gross domestic product per capita, and 77th in terms of personal consumption, ahead of all countries in the world in infant mortality, the number of abortions, divorces and consumption alcohol.

The continuous extermination war waged by the communist regime against the people led not only to the physical destruction or flight from the country of the best, hardest working and talented part of the population, but also affected the gene pool of the nation, sharply reducing the level of spiritual and moral culture.

Perhaps this is precisely the goal the communists set when they carried out their monstrous seventy-year experiment on Russia, eventually creating a society where, in the words of one famous philosopher, "the indifferent person became the dominant psychological type." And it should be added - completely immoral, with a completely lost concept of "public good" or civic duty, which, if manifested, was only in denunciations. Basically, it wasn't that bad. An "indifferent person" does not ask questions, does not interfere in his own business, lends himself to easy suggestion and even easier control, is not particularly interested in anything, is happy with his "soldering", which makes it possible to survive, and is even happy in his own way.

All types of wars known in the world were waged against this man: a war of physical extermination; psychological warfare on an incredible scale, every minute subjecting him to stupefaction with monstrous doses of lies and disinformation; electronic warfare - this novelty of modern military art, despite the huge costs required to conduct it, raged around the clock on the air to cut it off from any other sources of information than official ones. Biological warfare was carried out consistently and thoughtfully in the hope of mutating a person with the help of low-quality products, soldering him with thoughtful recipes for various "mumbling". Chemical warfare may have been carried out unconsciously, but seventy years of complete disregard for ecology turned entire regions of the country into zones completely uninhabitable, with poisoned water and air, where children were born either dead or deformed, and adults did not live to be 40 years old. The only thing missing was nuclear war. But she was not far off.

All this was good. After all, such a person was quite satisfied with the decomposed and corrupt party-state nomenklatura, since, without causing much trouble, he allowed her to do anything, enjoying life in the Looking Glass. But here's the problem. This person has stopped working. All methods of influencing him gave such an unexpected side effect. And it was already impossible to make it work by any means. The man has become too indifferent. Up to the fact that mothers obediently gave a subscription not to disclose the fact of the death of their children in Afghanistan or as a result of hazing raging in the army. Until 1985, no mother actually protested either.

The miraculously preserved conscience of the nation was driven into prisons and camps or agonized in emigration. And the surviving energy of the nation, purposefully striving for privileges, was desperately looking for ways to the "Through the Looking Glass" through party, KGB, scientific, cultural and even sports channels, or moved to trade, tightly merged with the mafia and the shadow economy, in turn, brazenly and openly merged with the party nomenclature. Society has become a snake devouring its own tail.

As nowhere else in the world, in the country of the victorious nomenklatura there were several currencies that better than all other indicators reflected the catastrophic situation of the agonizing "evil empire". The official ruble intended for slaves was in fact not backed by anything, was not recognized on the world market and was rapidly losing its significance in the domestic market. The mythical foreign currency ruble invented by the nomenklatura existed only in its imagination and was invented for the sole purpose of stealing as much foreign currency as possible. All sorts of checks and certificates were circulating around the country, issued by Vneshtorgbank for the issuance of salaries to low-ranking nomenklatura and merchant marine sailors, which could be purchased through a network of closed stores and distributors. To receive even a part of the salary in checks and certificates was considered a great honor, and significantly raised the social weight of the recipient.

But, gutting and sweeping away all these sham currencies, powerfully and firmly crushing the frail socialist economy and dead ideology, awakening the consciousness of people, the DOLLAR, the monetary unit of the "potential and probable enemy" of the empire, was already marching across the country. For a long time, without meeting any resistance, he occupied the country of Nomenklatura, breaking through it into the channels of the shadow economy and trade, into the supply and logistics system, into the army and security agencies.

Dollars were demanded by industry, choking with backwardness.

Dollars demanded science and medicine.

The military-industrial complex demanded dollars.

The dollar has already dressed the whole country in Levis and Montana jeans, Adidas tracksuits, fashionable jackets and boots.

The dollar threw Sony and Grundig radios into the most remote villages, and then VCRs with information cassettes that could not be drowned out and very difficult to take away.

The dollar flooded communist "culture" with a cascade of Western movies and shows that no one could compete with in a poor country.

All departments loudly and insistently demanded dollars from the government, threatening imminent collapse. And it goes without saying how the nomenklatura loved the dollar!

The trouble was that, unlike the ruble, the dollar had to be earned. And the nomenklatura had long ago become unaccustomed to work and did not know how to work. She still knew how to sell, since everything in the country, including the population, still belonged to her, but everything that could be sold for dollars had already been sold. And the people did not want to work for the nomenklatura anymore. As a result, the standard of living in the "Through the Looking Glass" dropped to a shameful level: in the special distributors of the highest rank, shortages began in the winter with fresh strawberries and watermelons. And all over the country they had long forgotten about simple sausage, coupons for butter and milk were introduced, the hungry population rushed to Moscow from all sides, hoping at least there to buy something with their unfortunate rubles. And to feed the people at least with bread, dollars were also needed. And for the sixth year, with all that, the country waged war in Afghanistan, where the generals, having got a taste, had long ago learned how to earn dollars, and therefore did not want to stop this war for anything. Everything was sold for dollars in this war: weapons, operational plans, military secrets, gold, lapis lazuli and, of course, soldiers' lives. It was a very interesting war, the last war of a dying empire.

And it was at this time that Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

He buried three general secretaries, his predecessors: Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko. And except for Chernenko, I learned a lot from the rest. It was quite obvious to him that the methods of Brezhnev and Andropov could not be worked. This is the path to ruin: Brezhnev's method leads to the death of the country, while Andropov's method leads to his own death.

The party nomenklatura has become so fused with the shadow economy that it considers any encroachment on the mafia as an encroachment on the great party of Lenin, which has always been a mafia itself and lived according to its laws. Well, what, really, is bad in the shadow economy created jointly by the party and the criminal world? It's just a way of joint more or less decent survival in this terrible country. In general, what is this shadow economy that for some reason Brezhnev loved so much and hated Andropov so much?

It's very simple. In parallel with the frail and inefficient socialist economy, an efficient and highly productive structure of a market, purely capitalist economy has been created. People work there, earn good money, produce goods and services that are in demand even in the West, and, of course, pay us for allowing them to work at all, providing them with raw materials and equipment, protecting them from the inevitable racket in such conditions. , we serve as arbitration. This, in the end, also serves the public good, since the goods and services of the shadow economy are somehow distributed in the domestic market, creating the so-called "black market", which allows many categories of the population to live comfortably. The shadow structures hardly touch the Military-Industrial Complex, but allow it to do its job. But do these shadow structures suck the juice out of the official economy and destroy it? But who needs this official economy! It has long been known that it is nothing more than paid unemployment. To keep people busy from morning till night, getting 100 times less for it than an unemployed black man in the US living on welfare.

"So, maybe we will make the entire economy market-based and efficient? How will the comrades look at this question? We will legalize the shadow economy and connect the official one to it. The main thing is to start, deepen and everything will be formed, the process will go! Well, how are you, comrades?"

Comrades are silent.

"The main thing, comrades," the new Secretary General continues, "is for us to raise the economy, because this lays the foundation for everything!"

"Dollars are needed for this, a lot of dollars. Where can I get them?"

"Where to get? We'll take it from the imperialists."

"They won't give you more. You and Andropov, Mikhail Sergeevich, have messed up such firewood that they won't give you any more. The late Leonid Ilyich still knew how to negotiate with them, but Andropov ruined everything. Nothing more to ask for. And so they owed more than 30 billion, and as guarantors - another 40. No wonder Leonid Ilyich, the kingdom of heaven to him, liked to joke: "If they demand to return the debts, then at least start a war. There is no other way."

"Nevertheless, there is one article under which they will give."

Uncomprehending, intrigued and wary glances focused on the young general secretary, sitting at the head of a long, polished table under a large portrait of Lenin.

"Under human rights. Will definitely give. Under publicity will give. Under the restructuring of our entire society."

General Chebrikov shook his head doubtfully. No, he had no doubt that they would.

They will, of course. But again to raise this accursed "human rights" question, littered with Western propaganda, which, as is well known, was concocted by the CIA and which does not exist in the Soviet Union. Our people have all the rights: the right to work, the right to rest, the right to free medical care. As in any barracks or prison. You just need to drink less. The general expressed the last consideration aloud.

Yegor Ligachev doubted even more, although he did not shake his head. Gorbachev somewhere in a safe had some papers about him, Ligachev, involvement in the Uzbek case. Since the Secretary General expresses such an opinion, it is better not to argue right away. Although what a trump card we are giving into the hands of the imperialists, recognizing the very fact of human rights violations in our country.

Nikolai Ryzhkov smiled broadly. The main thing is that they give money, and we will invest it in capital construction. The best place to invest. Not a single commission will figure out how much is stolen. On the contrary, he appreciated Gorbachev's proposal. Under such an obscure issue as human rights, it is possible to suck loans from the USA and Europe for another twenty years.

Grigory Romanov sits, frowning. Some strange games began against him. In Leningrad, some inspectors came to his sister's estate, either from the so-called people's control, or from the regional committee, demanded documents for the mansion and land, measured something, wrote down, and questioned the guards.

This is exactly what they did in their time with Ekaterina Furtseva, when the time came to throw her out of the Central Committee. Therefore he is silent.

Heydar Aliyev is also silent. It was good to work with Andropov, everything was clear. Dangerous, of course. But it was a game of men. And here something is too complicated for the new general secretary. How not to get confused. You have to look, and wave home, to Baku. If Americans start giving money for human rights, there will be a lot of work at home.

Eduard Shevardnadze smiles a kind, shy smile and nods his head. He agrees. Human rights in the USSR is a big issue. They need to be taken seriously. The market economy is also very good. She will revive the country. It never occurred to anyone that it was this person who authorized the use of torture in Georgia and threatened to clean out the "capitalist pigsty of the republic" to the bone.

Alexander Yakovlev, a sinister party ideologue of Stalin's training, Suslov's closest collaborator, sits kind and soft, reminiscent of the good-natured dwarf from Andersen's fairy tales. He also fully agrees with Gorbachev: if they give you under human rights, you have to take it. Western injections and a political thaw will save the country. They will stir up the people and finally force them to work and not to drink.

"The main thing in all this," Gorbachev sums up the opinions of his comrades, "is more than socialism. Our people made their historic choice in 1917, and they will not turn back!"

"Who is for, who is against, who abstained? Please drop it. Unanimously".

In the small apartment of the exiled Academician Sakharov, which was monitored round the clock by Gorky's KGB and specialists constantly coming from Moscow, the telephone had not worked for a year. Sakharov himself was recently released from the "special psychiatric hospital" - this ingenious joint invention of the late Andropov and free-living Soviet psychiatry, where the Nobel Peace Prize winner and the world-famous scientist were injected with potent psychotropic drugs and force-fed through a tube, knocked down on a bed and pinched his nose with a metal clothespin. There was a furious campaign in the Soviet press against Sakharov and his wife Elena Bonner.

The international community did everything possible to help the valiant scientist who dared to fight for human rights in a slave-owning country. US President Reagan even declared "Sakharov Day" in the United States to draw the world's attention to his fate. In response, only an angry hiss was heard from the USSR.

Sakharov's colleagues at the USSR Academy of Sciences issued a special statement stating: "The USSR Academy of Sciences is outraged by the decision of US President Reagan to officially celebrate Sakharov Day. To portray Sakharov as a fighter for peace and human rights is an outrage on the truth, incitement to fan the Cold War, and a complete disregard for the opinion of Soviet scientists. The action of the US administration is regarded by Soviet scientists as a provocation aimed at poisoning the international political climate ... "

"... Sakharov is trying to denigrate everything that is dear to us ... he slanders his own people, exposing them to the outside world as a kind of faceless mass that has not even come close to the heights of civilized life ... ", academicians Dorodnitsyn, Prokhorov, Scriabin and Tikhonov howled in the press, afraid that they can take away passes to a special buffet ...

The sharp ringing of the phone that suddenly came to life made the academic martyr shudder. Recently, the phone has come to life to send Sakharov or his wife a series of regular threats and insults, of which the most innocent was: "So, for how many dollars did you sell our Motherland, you Jew bastard?" Neither Sakharov nor his wife were Jews, but the Soviet media constantly trumpeted them as agents of international Zionism, and even sent Palestinian terrorists to threaten them...

Sakharov picked up the phone.

"Andrei Dmitrievich," he heard an unfamiliar voice, "sorry for the late call. You are concerned about Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, General Secretary... You can return to Moscow whenever you want. On behalf of the party, I ask your forgiveness for everything that has happened to you."

When Sakharov left the house, the policeman standing in the front door saluted him for the first time. Not every mere mortal is honored with calls personally by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU ...

The world choked with delight.

"Gorbachev released Academician Sakharov!" shouted huge newspaper headlines in all languages planets.

"This step by Moscow indisputably testifies that after many years of stagnation and arbitrariness in the USSR, a thaw is coming again, caused by the need to carry out urgent economic and political reforms. Will these reforms go further than Khrushchev did? Much depends on how much the West agrees to invest in the sick Soviet system, exhausted by the economic recession, chronic crop failures, corruption, global ambitions and the endless war in Afghanistan ... But whatever it is, it is already clear to everyone - Moscow is falling on a new course. But the bulky, huge and uncontrollable ship of the Soviet empire was no longer able to turn around to lay down on a new course. He was irresistibly carried to the rocks. Time was long gone. And this was perfectly seen by Gorbachev standing on the captain's bridge. He was only trying to soften the inevitable blow against the rocks so that the whole world and himself would not die from the explosion of a ship stuffed with nuclear warheads. This task was terribly difficult. But doable.

In all European capitals and in Washington, through diplomatic channels, the reaction of Western governments to the unexpectedly warm wind blowing from Moscow has already been probed.

the wind of change. Perestroika and Glasnost are now two slogans by which Moscow intends to be guided in its domestic and foreign policy. The West did not really believe. The late Brezhnev and Andropov policies brought to power in the West irreconcilable and staunch fighters against communism, such as President Reagan in the USA and Margaret Thatcher in England. It was impossible to convince them by words and promises. We needed specific things. For starters, release all political prisoners and end the war in Afghanistan. In principle, we are ready for this, but we need money. Funds are needed to rebuild this entire seventy-year-old ossified administrative-bureaucratic machine. The Soviet press is quite right in saying that everything depends on how much money the West agrees to invest in our perestroika and glasnost. The country is ruined by the former rulers and the depravity of the economic system. Perestroika and glasnost are not an end in themselves, but a tool for the country's smooth transition to a market economy.

But there is no money. There is no money for any program. Even for release from prisons and camps of political prisoners. Here the main thing is to start, and the process will go on, because it "lays" the beginning ... Help.

The KGB was in turmoil. Release political prisoners and stop cases under Articles 70 and 190, on which entire departments of the secret police were fed! So take it and let it go? No, let's reconsider a number of cases, release some by way of pardon, shorten the sentence for some (and add some to some). The generals didn't want to hear anything about leaving Afghanistan.

War to the bitter end! The partisans already had American and British surface-to-air missiles, Pakistani aviation covered their operations in the south, and the Iranian radar network worked for them. All parties have increased income in foreign currency. The flow of zinc coffins to the USSR also grew.

While party directives were troubling the KGB and the army, while diplomats were figuring out how much and under what conditions the West could provide loans to a country ruined by bureaucratic administrators, the new General Secretary was sorting out the vast economy of the CPSU Central Committee. Finally, all the secrets of the life of a small beautiful country of Nomenklatura became available to him, the uncrowned king of which he became. A large country was devastated, lying in mud, blood and barbed wire on a sixth of the land. In the small Nomenklatura, everything, thank God, was in order so far, although there was a certain tendency towards a decrease in the standard of living.

Nikolai Kruchina, manager of the affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU, submitted documents to the General Secretary on the current financial and economic situation in the Nomenklatura twice a week: on Mondays and Fridays. On Thursdays, the Politburo met to determine the tasks of Kruchina and his Office, located in a huge building on Granovsky Street. The Secretary General personally reviewed and signed all financial documents, especially when it came to foreign currency. The new general secretary delves into all the little things, finds fault with every dollar. Kruchina came to his post in 1983 from the post of deputy head of the department of agriculture and food industry of the Central Committee of the CPSU. By the way, he got on the recommendation of Gorbachev, who, as you know, was in charge of agriculture in the Politburo. Then Andropov, pissed off by the history of the "weakened screening" licenses, drove the former manager Georgy Pavlov into retirement. Kruchina came to the vacant place. He had to bring the new general secretary up to date, to whom he owed his career.

The economy of the CPSU in Moscow was huge, and if taken on an all-Union scale, it was simply immense. In the capital alone, the CPSU owned 5,000 buildings with a total area of 137,000 square meters. In 114 publishing houses and 80 printing houses belonging to the Central Committee of the CPSU,

80 thousand people worked, contributing 450 million rubles annually to the party treasury in the capital alone. At the disposal of the Central Committee were 19 luxurious sanatoriums and 40 rest houses, hundreds of clinics and hospitals.

Only in Serebryany Bor in the Moscow region, the Central Committee had 1800 dachas and mansions. The Central Committee owned a whole network of garages, canteens, shops, special workshops at meat processing plants, food processing factories, bakeries, hairdressers and dry cleaners, sewing studios and much, much more.

All this required huge expenses, since all the equipment, machine tools, household items and sanitation - everything was foreign-made, constantly requiring replacement either due to wear and tear, or in connection with the appearance of new designs on the Western market. On the scale of the Union, the annual costs of just maintaining the entire nomenklatura economy in good working order required approximately 5 billion rubles and 1.5 billion dollars. In addition, it was in the current year that there was a tendency towards an increase in costs, due to a sharp rise in prices in the West for many types of goods and services, as well as in connection with the expansion of the program for the construction of new dachas, since many old dachas built back in Stalin's times came to perfect decay. It has become absolutely impossible to live in them: there are no swimming pools, no saunas, no courts, not to mention many other things. Gorbachev, by the way, is interested in how the construction of his new dacha in the Crimea is going. Dacha is a purely conditional name. We are talking about a whole complex of buildings with garages, services, houses for service personnel and security, a blank fence with an alarm system, roads and communications, elevators, a marble descent to the sea, breakwaters and more. Everything is going according to the schedule approved by the Politburo.

We will try to meet the \$ 3 million, as indicated in the estimate.

The expenses associated with the trips of comrades on business trips abroad, on vacation with the family, for medical treatment and for other reasons are constantly increasing.

Expenditures under this item amount to approximately \$500 million annually.

500 million dollars? Something too much! That way, you know! .. If you please look at the statements, Mikhail Sergeevich. An average of 50 thousand people a year, only 10 thousand dollars per brother. You can't walk a lot over the hill for that kind of money. Prices in the West are growing by leaps and bounds. We can hardly keep up with this planned amount, and the comrades asked to come in with a petition to the Politburo for an increase in it. Now about international affairs.

Expenses passing under the article "Assistance to fraternal parties". We are talking only about the parties of the capitalist countries. Where parties are in power, money is transferred from the state budget through the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank.

Traditionally, we do the most extensive business with the French Communist Party, since it is there that the most sparing tax system is. In addition to the \$2 million annually transferred by the FKP through the Eurobank, we separately transfer money to the account of the newspaper "Humanite", which, unfortunately, is chronically unprofitable. Here are the costs since 1978:

1978 - 1 million 662 thousand francs.

1979 - 1 million 751 thousand francs.

1980 - 1 million 862 thousand francs.

1981 - 1 million 877 thousand francs.

1982 - 1 million 878 thousand francs.

1983 - 1 million 542 thousand francs.

1984 - 1 million 933 thousand francs.

1985 - 1 million 974 thousand francs.

All this is a necessary expense, since it is vitally important for us to support Comrade Marchais and his party. It was through the channels of the French Communist Party that we succeeded in penetrating the internal market of France, entering a number of real estate exchanges, and establishing several very profitable joint ventures. In fact, we, together with the FKP, currently own the entire complex of modern buildings where various institutions of the FKP are located. Through the PCF, we have managed to acquire about two dozen excellent residential buildings located in the expensive, bourgeois quarters of Paris, Lyon, Marseille and a number of other large French cities. These houses give a steadily increasing income, part of which is put into circulation, and part goes to the personal personal accounts of Politburo members, secretaries of the Central Committee and other comrades in accordance with the secret resolution of the Politburo of October 20, 1965. Such operations require additional costs, approximately 40 million francs per year. However, even here additional costs are required, taking into account inflation and expansion of operations. When there is a need for an emergency transfer of money to comrades, then, as usual, couriers are used.

Here, for example, is a document approved by the Politburo, which you must sign, because without your signature such documents are not valid. This order was introduced by Comrade Stalin immediately after the death of Comrade Lenin, when it turned out that huge party sums had disappeared to no one knows where, thanks to the gullibility and insufficient exactingness of Vladimir Ilyich.

"Top secret. P 219/7 of 20.09.85

On the request of Comrade Kossuth, a member of the leadership of the ICP

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Kossuta, a member of the leadership of the ICP, and allocate 200,000 dollars in 1985 for the publication of the Horizons magazine.
2. Instruct the State Bank of the USSR (comrade Alkhimov) to allocate comrade B. N. Ponomarev \$200,000 for special purposes.
3. Entrust the transfer of funds to the KGB.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU - signature.

Here's another:

"Top secret. P 157/2390 dated 10/28/85

About the request of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USA

1. Satisfy the request of the Central Committee of the US Communist Party and allocate 250,000 dollars for party building.
2. To instruct the State Bank of the USSR (comrade Fomin) to allocate 250,000 dollars to Comrade B. N. Ponomarev for special purposes.
3. Entrust the transfer of money to the KGB.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU - signature.

And further:

"Top secret. P 161/2738 of 10/29/85

About Comrade Urbani's request

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Urbani, a member of the Central Committee of the CPB, to allocate 2 million 196 thousand 550 Belgian francs for the purchase of a building for the needs of the party press ... ".

Gorbachev likes Kruchin. An open Russian face, an imposing appearance, a disarming smile, a lush head of hair of graying hair. And he explains everything simply and clearly. Some things the Secretary General has known for a long time, but some things he will learn for the first time.

"What is 500 million?"

Kruchina explains: "This is exactly the amount that accumulates per year at the urgent request of our friends."

"It is clear. What do these 500 million mean?"

"This is for Comrade Saddam Hussein to go to war with Iran as he neutralizes Tehran and ensures our operations in Afghanistan."

"Excuse me, but do we spend a billion rubles annually, supplying Hussein with the latest types of weapons, fuel, spare parts, pay for advisers, and even separately allocate 400,000 dollars a year to the Iraqi Communist Party?"

"There is no need to confuse here, Mikhail Sergeevich. Supplies of weapons and other things are paid from the state budget. And 500 million to Hussein himself and 400 thousand from the funds of the CPSU."

"Afghanistan, however, costs us dearly!"

"It's expensive," Kruchina agrees, "everything is very expensive now. Maintenance of 120,000 contingent of troops requires 50 million annually."

"Dollars?!"

"No, fortunately, so far rubles. In total, up to the present year, 1985, we have already spent 80 billion rubles on the maintenance of the army. In addition, the entire population of Afghanistan is actually supported in the cities at our expense. That's another 70 million a year. But it all comes from the state budget. The CPSU's expenses in Afghanistan are not very large - about one and a half million dollars a year. An exception has been made for Afghanistan. But in general, all the ruling parties, as I said, are supplied from the state budget. Here is the payroll for the activities of the fraternal parties. These are, so to speak, mandatory payments. The numbers are stable, although they also tend to increase by about 1-1.5% per year recently:

1. US Communist Party - \$2,000,000
2. Communist Party of France - \$2,000,000.
3. CP of Finland - \$1,800,000.
4. CP of Portugal - \$1,000,000.
5. Greek CP - \$900,000.
6. Israeli CP - \$800,000

7. CP Chile - \$700,000
8. CP of Lebanon - \$500,000
9. Venezuelan CP - \$500,000
10. CP of India - \$500,000
11. Italian CP - \$500,000
12. Danish CP - \$350,000
13. CP Peru - \$350,000
14. El Salvador CP - \$400,000
15. Argentina CP - \$400,000
16. Brazilian CP - \$330,000
17. AKEP (Cyprus) - \$300,000
18. CP of Spain - \$300,000.
19. Iraqi CP - \$400,000.
20. Austrian CP - \$250,000
21. Syrian CP - \$250,000.
22. Egyptian CP - \$230,000
- 23....

In total, about 40 million a year, including here and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Agree that a little, if you compare other expenses.

Gorbachev listens attentively. Signs documents, argues, proves, asks if anything is unclear. Banks in Amsterdam, Zurich, London, Paris, Tokyo and Singapore. Fake billionaires like Hammer, Maxwell, Shimada. Mafia gangs, willingly cooperating on shares.

Numbers, numbers and numbers. Billions and billions of dollars. Tons of gold and diamonds.

Expenses for training the party apparatus of all countries of the world at the Institute of Social Sciences under the Central Committee of the CPSU, expenses for the stay (business trips, rest, treatment) of leaders of foreign communist parties in the USSR, expenses for political emigrants temporarily or permanently residing in the USSR ... The expenses of communist parties for placing Soviet orders in their countries through their mediation. Joint ventures, "friend firms", "ghost firms"

And an anti-alcohol campaign is raging in the country, which, according to the plan of the CPSU, should raise labor productivity.

Newborn publicity makes its way to the pages of newspapers and on TV screens with heartbreaking appeals: "A four-year-old girl is sick with leukemia. In our country, this disease is not treated. \$3,000 is needed to save her life..."

The vast country is silent. Who has dollars, except for the CPSU? But the CPSU of such calls

never heard, never hears now. And if someone has a couple of thousand in foreign currency, and he would be happy to help a sick girl, but he is afraid. Isn't this a Chekist provocation? If you show dollars, you will be jailed for 10 years. It is better to remain silent. "A West German company... takes over the girl's treatment and invites her and her parents to Hamburg...". But while the girl's mother will draw up documents for leaving the FRG (Why is she going? Is the girl really sick and cannot be cured at home? Are her parents the bearers of state secrets? Are they going to discredit our system?), the girl is already will die...

And then came Chernobyl.

The atomic war, which was so lacking in the list of wars unleashed by the communists against the people, began.

Radiation exceeding the normal radiation of the atomic bombs that exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki hit hundreds of thousands of people and vast territories of Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states and Russia. The radioactive cloud passed through Eastern and Central Europe, reaching Sweden. American reconnaissance satellites quickly reported the extent of the disaster. Western countries, with horror, began the immediate evacuation of their citizens from the affected areas. The newborn glasnost was immediately stepped on with a boot and almost crushed in diapers. The Kremlin reacted to the disaster in its best tradition.

The cry of horror and despair issued by the Western media was declared "a provocative hype aimed at causing another anti-Soviet hysteria." Firefighters extinguished a fire at an exploding nuclear power plant in the same tunics. No one even thought of starting the evacuation of residents even from the epicenter of the explosion. Television enthusiastically showed lovers listening to the singing of nightingales over Pripyat (the program was called "Nightingales over Pripyat" and was shown on the third day after the disaster), and smiling young mothers with babies in strollers and on their chests.

Lively TV reporters shoved their microphones at them, asking an idiotic question:

"How are you feeling?"

"Great!" the young women answered smiling broadly.

"And what can you say about the propaganda hype raised in the West about the accident at the nuclear power plant?"

"What, is this the first time? the women were outraged. "They are glad for any occasion in order to once again pour out their anger on our people and our system." Six months later, their children will begin to die one by one, and the total number of dead children is still classified ...

While Moscow did its best to hide or downplay the size of the catastrophe, it has already appeared in the West with all the obviousness of its global consequences. The huge area of the contaminated territory, the loss of arable land and livestock, the need to resettle huge masses of residents who fell under an atomic attack, industrial losses - all this added up to hundreds of billions of dollars and required efforts that were clearly beyond the Soviet Union's shoulder. And disasters followed one after another. Ocean liners and strategic submarines sank, passenger and military planes crashed, trains flew downhill, oil and gas pipelines exploded, workshops of factories and factories burned. The demons of Korea retaliated severely. The seventy-year occupation of the country by a band of criminals was even more severely avenged. But the vicious economy of the slave-owning state, created on the basis of insane ideas, took revenge most mercilessly. A state abandoned by the grim irony of history as an isolated medieval

enclave into the world of the 20th century.

The Chernobyl explosion became the catalyst for a whole series of irreversible events.

The agonizing empire began to spread before our eyes. Glasnost revived in decay and decay. The truth of its dirty and bloody seventy-year history has poured into the perishing country like a formidable waterfall. Social forces have awakened.

Rallies of many thousands were noisy, still spontaneous and chaotic, but already clearly pointing to the main cause of all troubles - the CPSU and the criminal institutions of state power it created. The CPSU reacted sluggishly, waiting for the loans promised by Gorbachev from the West. And Gorbachev did not disappoint them. He rushed around the countries of Western Europe, flew to America, met with presidents, prime ministers, kings and queens, public figures, entrepreneurs and bankers, charming everyone with his ideas of "new thinking", global proposals to change the world sitting on an atomic barrel, his perestroika and glasnost. As proof that these are not empty words, on the orders of Gorbachev, a new round of a powerful anti-Stalinist campaign began in the country. The late Generalissimo was cursed, branded and exposed almost around the clock in the press, on radio, on television, on movie screens, on the stage. The campaign immediately spiraled out of control, hitting the CPSU like a ricochet.

"More democracy! More publicity! Gorbachev proclaimed in Washington, Paris, London and Bonn.

"More socialism! More discipline! he taught when he returned home.

And, finally, having combined these two calls, he began to call both at home and abroad: "More democracy! More socialism! This has not gone unnoticed. Democracy and socialism, like two critical masses of uranium, should have produced an explosion worse than Chernobyl when approached.

Gorbachev impressed the West very much. None of his predecessors was so open and frank.

His wife accompanied him on all his trips. (Stalin liquidated his wife Nadezhda long before his own appearance on the international stage, Khrushchev's wife, the kindest Nina Petrovna, rarely appeared in public, Brezhnev kept his Victoria Petrovna almost under house arrest. As for Andropov, Western journalists assured that they didn't know whether he was married or not until his widow was seen at the funeral). But Raisa Maksimovna is no match for her predecessors. She rushes through Western capitals with an American Express credit card, devastating jewelry and antique shops.

She orders the same earrings as those of Margaret Thatcher, for 70 thousand pounds, she buys a golden Faberge Easter egg at auction, shaming the moneybags collectors who have flocked from all over the world. (The thing is unique. Only a few of these masterpieces were made by the famous Russian jeweler commissioned by the Imperial family. And the price is unique - 2.5 million dollars). She floods Dior and Cardin with orders. For the first time, two famous fashion designers refuse to tell reporters the total cost of the order, citing a trade secret and a request from a client. But nosy journalists find out everything through the tax office. Seven-digit numbers in red font sensationally crown the headlines of European newspapers, providing the Gorbachevs with solidity and universal respect. (The inexorable craving of the nomenklatura, and after it the entire population, for Western "clothing" turned out to be quite obvious, but, alas, the only confirmation of the famous slogan: "The people and the party are one!". Tons of Western consumer goods crushed and trampled into the mud all the immortal ideas of Marx, Lenin, Stalin). And money is given to Gorbachev, as he promised his party, but little by little and for specific deeds.

Release all political prisoners.

"Already released," Gorbachev assures.

He is presented with lists accurate to one person.

Where are these lists from? Where was the KGB looking?

But the gates are already swinging open in the camps, and the Chernobyl explosion generally rips them off their hinges. A powerful stream of former political prisoners is pouring into the public life of the country, forming and rebuilding on the go, anticipating the opening opportunity to finally settle old scores with the hated system.

And the country continues to agonize. The terrible earthquake in Armenia, which claimed more than 30 thousand lives, left about half a million people homeless, having become a kind of natural addition to the Chernobyl disaster, again demonstrated the complete indifference of the ruling party in the country to the troubles that fell like a waterfall of catastrophes on the unfortunate country.

Huge US and NATO military transport planes - black "Hercules", designed for the rapid transfer of American "rapid reaction" units to the zones of distribution of the Soviet military threat, stuffed with clothes, food and medicines, land one after another on the airfields of Moscow, Minsk, Yerevan and other large cities of the Union, wishing to somehow alleviate the suffering of the population of the perishing country. If you don't know what the Hercules are carrying, you get the impression that the Americans are conducting one of those global landing operations deep into the enemy's defenses, which they learned to carry out so impressively during the Second World War.

Has the third world started?

Started. And, according to tradition, took the country by surprise. The beginning of such a large-scale "enemy invasion" showed that a huge nuclear potential, the largest army in the world, armed with more tanks than all other countries combined, an army bristling with thousands of land, sea and air-based missiles, an army with systems space communications and laser weapons, turned out to be completely useless and unnecessary, finding its only use in unloading American

aircraft.

The final phase of the old plan of President Taft began.

Instead of bombs and shells, the Dollar smashed and killed, sweeping away the last remnants of resistance and conquering for itself the last, still uncaptured, market.

And what about our native party?

TV screens show all over the country the emaciated faces of Chernobyl children with doomed, unchildish eyes. Armenian children rescued from the ruins of collapsed houses and taken out of Baku, where their parents were killed before their eyes. Russian children living in tattered tents in the dead of winter without warm clothes, heating or food. Their parents had to hastily flee from Central Asia and Transcaucasia from bloody pogroms and massacres. Despair in the eyes of doctors: no medicines, no disposable syringes, no clothes, no housing.

Save the children - the future of the country!

Give 2000 dollars for syringes!

Give 3000 dollars for Western drugs that can save these children.

Give 5,000 dollars to send these children for treatment to clinics in Germany, Holland and England ...

Give it, give it, give it...

Western firms are responding. They transfer money, send volunteer doctors, mobilize private charitable foundations, both secular and religious, allocate funds for the delivery of sick and socially distressed children to the United States and Europe. But instead of children, some big-faced figures with shifty eyes, in good suits and imported ties, come with this money. Are they the children of Chernobyl?

Meanwhile, the following documents are being considered in the bowels of the Old Square:

"Top secret. P 180/74 dated 01/14/87

On the request of the leadership of the Communist Party of India

1. Satisfy the request of the leadership of the Communist Party of India and allocate 1,258,890 rupees for the needs of party building.
2. Instruct the State Bank of the USSR (comrade Pavlov) to allocate the specified amount to Comrade Zagladin for special purposes.
3. Money transferred to the account of the Communist Party of India in the bank of Calcutta.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU - Gorbachev M.S.

Manager of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU - Kruchina N. E. "

"Top secret. P 159/48 of 01/30/87

On the request of Comrade Jensen, a member of the leadership of the Communist Party of Denmark

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Jensen, a member of the leadership of the Communist Party of Denmark, to allocate 357,941 Danish kroner to cover the party budget in connection with inflation.
2. Instruct the State Bank of the USSR (comrade Pavlov) to allocate the specified amount to Comrade Zagladin for special purposes.
3. Entrust the transfer of money to the KGB.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU - Gorbachev M.S.

Manager of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU - Kruchina N. E. "

"Top secret. P 157/251 dated 03.02.87

On the request of Comrade Hall, General Secretary of the US Communist Party

1. Satisfy the request of the General Secretary of the US Communist Party, Comrade Hall, to allocate him 500 thousand dollars for the upcoming anniversary of the US Communist Party ... "

"Top secret. P 161/491 dated 11.02.87

On the request of Comrade Kossuth, a member of the leadership of the ICP

1. Satisfy the request for payment of personal expenses of a member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party

comrade Kossuth and allocate him 633,765 lire (\$85)...".

"Top secret. P 166/511 dated 13.02.87

On the request of Comrade Ali Yat, a member of the leadership of the Communist Party of Morocco

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Ali Yat, a member of the leadership of the Moroccan Communist Party, and allocate him 1,870,762 dirhams 85 centimes for the purchase of 548,966 kilograms of paper for the needs of the party press...".

"Top secret. P 181/373 dated 18.02.87

On the request of a member of the leadership of the Communist Party of Egypt Comrade Said

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Said, a member of the leadership of the Egyptian Communist Party, and allocate him \$25,000 for treatment...".

Eduard Shevardnadze, who succeeded the aged Gromyko as Minister of Foreign Affairs, is charming, respectable, the very embodiment of "new thinking", [37] making the rounds of those countries where Gorbachev has already visited, unobtrusively but stubbornly asking for additional loans. The blue eyes of Chancellor Kohl, the intelligent smile of President Mitterrand, the soft femininity of Margaret Thatcher, the cowboy simplicity of President Bush.

We agree to help Russia (the concept of the USSR is rarely and reluctantly used) to embark on the path of reforms and democratic transformations. However, everything is going very slowly for you, although the path to a civilized way of life is equally simple and direct. Freedom of speech. Multi-party system.

The formation of state structures of power on the basis of the free will of the people, that is, through free elections. Freedom of private enterprise. Simply put, freedom of trade. An economy connected to the world market with a freely convertible currency, the standard of which in the modern world is the dollar. Everything is so simple. And by the way, you ask for money, but spend billions on the maintenance of the so-called countries of "people's democracy." Here is real help for you - we take these countries for our maintenance, and you invest the freed money in internal reforms.

"And our army in Eastern Europe?".

"And who is your army bothering? Let him sit in the barracks and not interfere in anything. However, if you want, we can take her for maintenance.

Temporarily, of course. And slowly the Americans and you will withdraw troops from Europe, declaring cooperation instead of confrontation.

"But we have nowhere to withdraw the army. There are no barracks for soldiers, no schools and kindergartens for children of military personnel."

"Good God! What have you been doing for 70 years? Okay, that's not a problem. We will build houses and schools for your officers and their children."

"But the army must also be withdrawn from Afghanistan. Yes, hurry up. Everything you say is correct, but all the planned activities require large expenses."

"How many?"

"Three and a half billion dollars. For the first time..."

Abroad, Mikhail Gorbachev once even quoted Disraeli, throwing Western journalists into confusion with his erudition. Lenin took real pleasure in reading Hegel's works in the original in rare hours of leisure, Stalin adored Machiavelli, and Mikhail Sergeevich, in his own words, enthusiastically read the novels of Valentin Pikul. But, fortunately, he did not quote Pikul, but still Lenin. This somewhat reassured his colleagues in the Politburo. "More socialism! - the general secretary encouraged his somewhat bewildered comrades. - We check the path along Lenin. What did Ilyich say when introducing the NEP?

"He said, comrades: "This is serious and for a long time." And what did Stalin do? He distorted, deformed Lenin's ideas and began to build barracks socialism. This, comrades, has led, you know, to what we have now.

It is unlikely that there will be two or three people in the USSR who could, without a shadow of lies, declare that they have read all of Lenin from cover to cover. Firstly, because a good quarter of Vladimir Ilyich's works are classified, and only those who will never read them have access to these materials. They are not interested. And if you start to study at least 50 openly published volumes, then you won't even become a party organizer of the primary organization, if you get somewhere, then only in a madhouse. For professional workers, special "Lenin collections" were printed, which contained the essence of Lenin's ideas, necessary for a given moment in party life. Sometimes, according to these collections (there was such a period both in the time of Stalin and in the time of Andropov), the famous "Lenin tests" for the nomenklatura were even arranged.

In general, these collections were recommended to be read not so much for self-education as for public speeches, which were supposed to begin and end with Lenin's quotations. The more quotes, the better the performance was considered. And why, one might ask, should the nomenklatura read Lenin and find out the details of Lenin's divergence from Kautsky or Martov, if Ilyich was in the heart of each of them? And everyone knew that "Lenin's teaching is invincible, because it is true!".

What did Lenin say? Widespread use of executions. And rightly so, as always, he said. They stopped using it - that's it. Everyone stopped working and only yelled at rallies.

And each of them knew what Lenin constantly warned about:

"Our party and socialism as a whole can and will be destroyed:

1. Multi-party system and bourgeois pseudo-democracy.
2. Freedom of trade. (She, as Lenin figuratively expressed it, is even more terrible than all the Kolchaks and Denikins put together).
3. Glasnost.
4. Freedom of speech, press and assembly.

Gorbachev knew this very well. But the main party ideologist Vadim Medvedev knew about it even better. In the past, a professor at the Department of the History of the CPSU, he read Lenin on duty, in particular, his main works: "How do we organize socialist competition" and "Immediate tasks of the Soviet government". In general, it was possible to classify all other works of Lenin as well. They are not needed.

They just confuse. There are many contradictions. But the basis of Lenin's teaching must be remembered clearly.

What is Gorbachev going to do? Kill the party! Destroy Soviet power? Let the great cause of Lenin go to waste?

What else for free elections? What are council congresses? But you can't take Gorbachev by the throat. Neither the timid Medvedev nor the impudent but slow-witted Ligachev succeed in this. Gorbachev is a democrat at heart. He does not raise his voice to anyone, does not organize car accidents or premature heart attacks. It is open and available. He sees the opposition in the Politburo and the Central Committee, but in the conditions of the new thinking, this is ordinary pluralism.

It's OK. The comrades do not understand that an incomprehensible system of dual power has taken shape in the country. Let's say secretaries of regional committees and chairmen of councils. In essence, of course, there is no dual power - the soviets have become simply one of the lower party instances. But it's still not good. Free elections are aimed at promoting party secretaries to chairs of the soviets. This is wonderful: you are the First Secretary, you are the Chairman of the Council. And no gossip. But if the Central Committee, as it were, appoints the First Secretary, then one has to go through elections to the soviets. on an alternative basis. Why are you looking so frightened, comrades? Everything is in your hands: power, mass media, law enforcement agencies. Are you afraid of elections? OK then. We will reserve one hundred seats for the CPSU in the Supreme Soviet according to the list without any alternatives. I want to do better for you. And do not refer to Lenin. What Ilyich warned about, I know as well as you. So there is nothing to worry about. The main thing is to start, deepen, everything will be formed, and the process will go. (By this time, Gorbachev's earlier expression "because it lays the foundation" had disappeared, making itself felt only by commands in an emotional state at meetings of the Supreme Council, of which Gorbachev became chairman in 1987: "Do not put notes on the presidium, comrades!").

Gorbachev spoke calmly and intelligibly.

The catastrophic defeat of the CPSU in the elections, which could hardly be called free, caused a major internal party scandal. Gorbachev did not accept any claims. If you, the First Secretaries, failed to organize your victory in the elections, then you know, comrades, this is fraught. It means that you had no real contact with the people. And the people - he's very sensitive. Remember what Lenin said?

"People are..." However, it doesn't even matter what Lenin said. It is more important that this serve as a lesson to you and all of us.

The conclusion from all the speeches of the General Secretary was: if you could not organize your own victory in the elections to the Soviets, then you are not suitable for the first secretaries either. The first secretaries had no maneuver, since the second secretaries had long and angrily breathed into the back of their heads. In one fell swoop, 85% of the first secretaries lost their posts, giving way to the second.

"Revolution of the second!" the insolent press scoffed.

Meanwhile, the first secretary of the Sverdlovsk regional committee, Boris Yeltsin, summoned to Moscow, headed the Moscow city committee of the CPSU, brushing the almighty Grishin into oblivion, which even Andropov failed to do, and began to rout him.

The nomenklatura rebelled and, throwing a whole series of tantrums at Gorbachev, demanded the convening of the All-Union Party Conference, which the CPSU had not known since pre-war times. Gorbachev did not object: if you want a party conference, let's convene a party conference. The second secretaries, who have just replaced the first, are still suspiciously looking around, they will not utter a word against the general secretary. In the Politburo, the team is more or less reliable: Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Yeltsin as a candidate, in the Central Committee - Razumovsky, Volsky, Falin, Dzasokhov - they will not let you down, because they understood everything correctly ...

Gorbachev, as the captain and playing coach of the hockey team, its dispatcher and chief

striker, either moving in with Yeltsin and Shevardnadze, then leaving them and rushing with Kryuchkov, Yazov and Pugo to someone else's goal, then leaving the field for a whole time to consult with Reagan and Kohl, again moving in with Yeltsin, simulating his removal from the field and returning him back in a new quality, was incomparable. A great politician and intriguer, he either unleashed the noisy team of Gdlyan and Ivanov on his colleagues from the Central Committee and the Politburo, or again drove them into the aviary, which at the right time was sure to be unlocked. And shreds flew from Ligachev, from Solomentsev, even from Chebrikov himself, not to mention such petty people as Grishin, Romanov or Zaikov. When the "Bolshevik army", which lost its temper, believing that Gdlyan and Ivanov were acting on their own initiative, tried to hound both investigators to death, Gorbachev skillfully hid them, like Ivan the Terrible, his bears from the boyars' infamy.

Manna from heaven on Red Square, or rather, on Gorbachev, fell Matthias Rust - a German pilot, who assured that he undertook to land his sports plane at St. Basil's Cathedral on a bet. This made it possible to disperse the entire top of the country's Armed Forces, having previously defamed it in the press, which had not happened since 1937.

Meanwhile, the anti-communist revolution swept away the puppet regimes of Eastern Europe. The corpses of the Ceausescu spouses, who were shot without trial or investigation, lying in the snow, looked like a formidable warning to those who did not want to obey the most intelligent and cunning general secretary of all who only led the CPSU. The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany. The pale face of Eric Honecker, who managed to escape to one of the Soviet military bases, fleeing from the wrath of the people. The owner of the GDR was so sure of himself that he forgot (or did not have time) even to transfer the money lying in the Berlin bank abroad. Thank you, old and faithful friend Yasser Arafat, having landed his plane at the same Soviet base, brought Honecker a whole suitcase of dollars (received, by the way, from the USSR), naively believing that the former communist leader of East Germany would use this money to start a guerrilla, liberation war against Western invasion. Honecker did not refuse to take the money, but immediately sent it to his daughter in Chile. Let him at least buy a decent house there, one of those chic mansions in which Honecker has been accustomed to living for the past 30 years.

Just yesterday, the Czech dissident Havel, who had previously worked as a loader, who was in prison, suddenly became the president of Czechoslovakia, banning the Communist Party and liquidating the security agencies.

The indomitable Lech Walesa, an electrical worker at the Gdansk Shipyard, founder and organizer of Solidarity, a political prisoner of the head of the military junta, General Jaruzelski, replaced the latter as president of the country, dispersed the Communist Party and deprived the communists of immunity and property.

In Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, the leader of the Communist Party and the head of state, was officially taken into custody, accused of corruption, embezzlement and anti-state activities.

In Budapest, the Communists themselves fled on the eve of free elections.

The question was visibly posed before the CPSU: which of the options suits it more - Romanian or Hungarian?

The CPSU has never been a political party. Even in the conditions of that truly childish political struggle that was going on in the USSR, the party felt like a baby in the jungle. She was afraid to become a parliamentary party.

And staying in power is even worse. And she did not have a single leader capable of replacing Gorbachev. But neither the Romanian, nor the Hungarian, nor the Czech version of the development of events

did not suit the party. At first there was a timid attempt to bet on Yegor Ligachev, from whose very appearance on the podium there was an air of nostalgia for the good old days of the 25th Congress. But as soon as Yegor Kuzmich appeared publicly on the podium or on the TV screen, Gdlyan and Ivanov immediately appeared with noise and thunder, accusing him of bribery and fraud.

Under such conditions, as Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov correctly noted, it was absolutely impossible to work. And he was right. Under the conditions of glasnost, the party could not work, once again confirming the unspeakable wisdom of the leader of the world proletariat, who had already warned about this 70 years ago. The party, in the figurative expression of Alexander Yakovlev, went into the trenches, watching its general secretary in fear, but still hoping for him.

And Gorbachev is receiving American, British, French and Japanese businessmen one by one in Moscow. Meetings, confidential meetings, breakfasts, lunches. Attacked by journalists, businessmen respond evasively, saying only that the proposals of the "Soviet side" were interesting and profitable. They should be thought about. Gorbachev, for his part, assures correspondents that it was not about loans, but about mutually beneficial joint activities, and again leaves for the West.

Meanwhile, after ten years of bloody and useless war, Soviet troops are unconditionally withdrawn from Afghanistan. In 10 years, they have killed more than a million Afghans, forcing 3 million people to flee the country, but never won the desired victory. The army through gritted teeth reports its own losses: 15,000 killed and 60,000 wounded and maimed. A certain number of officers and soldiers are held captive by partisans, but no one knows the exact number. And although no one believes in these figures, suspecting that they are at least three times higher, they are taken as a basis, as the 7 million killed in the Patriotic War declared by Stalin and which have grown since then to 20 million annually upward trend of about two million. The exit of the army is arranged effectively. Orchestras are playing on the border bridge, huge Red Banners are raised on tanks and combat vehicles. The last commander of the 40th Army, Lieutenant General Gromov, who received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for the criminal conduct of Operation Magistral, is promoted to colonel general instead of being put on trial.

It immediately turns out that no one is waiting for Afghan veterans in their homeland, and no one needs them, except for the criminal world.

At this time, Mikhail Sergeevich, returning once again from a foreign trip, announces his intention to introduce presidential rule in the USSR, putting forward, of course, at the same time as the only candidate for the presidency of himself. To be like people. Presidents are everywhere, and we have a president. Nobody understands why this is necessary. Cynics are sharp: why the president, and not immediately the emperor? There is no question of any popular elections there. Gorbachev is elected by the deputies at the congress, and he becomes the first (and last) president of the USSR, leaving behind the post of General Secretary of the CPSU. Gorbachev passes the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet to his old (and, it would seem, faithful) university friend Anatoly Lukyanov. What happened? Everything was simple - Gorbachev ran away from his native party for the presidency. In the bowels of the Central Committee, along the corridors and offices, the "opinion" has long been crawling like a hissing cobra that the current Secretary General has not justified the trust, and a plenum should be urgently convened to replace him. Well, replace it. And try to replace the elected president? The arms are short. From that moment on, the party was doomed. No sooner had Gorbachev become president than the campaign of the necessity of trial of the CPSU and the nationalization of its property swept across the country. Moreover, they were going to deprive the party of the 6th article of the Constitution of the USSR, which secures the political monopoly in the country for the CPSU.

Gorbachev has not yet completely abandoned his party. Transferring organizational affairs to the CPSU

his deputy Ivashko, he still has the almost immense power of the General Secretary.

And the faithful Kruchina continues, as before, to come to him twice a week with secret and top secret party documents:

"Top secret. 04.12.89

On the problems of party property

The development of the political process in the country, the formation of a multi-party system in many respects poses in a new way the task of material support for the life of the party, the creation of stable sources of funding both in Soviet and foreign currency. The material basis of the international relations of the CPSU, as well as its ability to provide, in necessary cases, at least minimal assistance to foreign Communist Parties depends on this. Meanwhile, as the lessons of the Communist Party of Eastern Europe testify, the failure to take timely measures to formalize party property in relation to the requirements of commercial activity and include it in normal economic circulation, especially in the context of the transition to a market economy, inevitably threatens with grave consequences for the party. Alarming symptoms for the CPSU are already being noted today. This business will have to be started from scratch and will have to work in conditions unusual for the party ... At the same time, considerations of reasonable confidentiality will be required in the use, in a number of cases, of anonymous firms that mask direct access to the CPSU. The ultimate goal, apparently, will be to, along with the "commercialization" (as in the text - I. B.) of the available party property, systematically create structures of the "invisible" party economy, to work with which will be allowed a very narrow circle of persons determined by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU or his deputy ...

Gorbachev raises admiring eyes to Kruchina. The comrades are thinking in a new way and quite correctly. "The parties need to enter the market together with the whole country. What did Lenin say? "We must learn to trade." The main thing is to start, and the process will go. Now we will determine the list of admitted comrades: Ivashko, Shenin, Falin, Dzasokhov, Luchinsky, Manaenkov, Veselkov, Kruchina. Well, at the discretion of Ivashko, it is possible and necessary to attract specialists. There are quite a few international economists in Comrade Kryuchkov's department. They can help a lot. So, what is it?"

"Top secret directive to the field, endorsed by Ivashko and requiring your signature:

Conduct an inventory of party property in terms of determining the possibilities of its use for commercial purposes; Simultaneously "inventory" all the business proposals received from the partner parties and hold consultations with the respective parties. To start forming a network of medium-sized, flexible self-supporting economic organizations on the basis of existing party property in the form of joint ventures, joint-stock companies with the participation of "friends" firms and partner parties ... "

"All this is wonderful. Especially with firms of "friends". But let Ivashko sign such documents on his own. I have plenty of other things to do. What else?"

"As for the "friends" firms, we owe them a lot of late, and Comrade Falin submitted a memorandum:

I remind you that the firms of "friends" belong directly and through intermediaries to the Communist Parties of the countries where they are located and are an important channel for the international activity of the CPSU. Among other things, these firms supply us with Western goods, serving

mediators, and sometimes direct executors of various tasks of our foreign policy activity ...

The need for an urgent solution of issues in relation to the firms of "friends" is predetermined by the fact that their complicated financial situation, the threat of bankruptcy violates the mechanism of friendly parties, creates a real threat to their further existence ... At present, Vnesheconombank of the USSR

paid to the following firms in millions of foreign currency rubles:

IT - "Commercio" (Portugal) - 4.4

Metalkim (Portugal) - 0.3

Numerica (Portugal) - 0.6

Globus (Austria) - 0.8

Land of Volk (Denmark) - 0.3

OPF (France) - 0.3

"Plumbach" (Germany) - 0.1

At present, according to the information of Soviet foreign trade organizations, the amount of arrears to the firms of "friends" amounted to (in millions of foreign currency rubles):

International Trading (Japan) - 0.5

OPF (France) - 0.4

Teti Editori, Editori Rieniti, Amilcara Pizza, Xylon (Italy) — 1.9

Globus (Austria) - 2.2

Pergamon Presso (England) - 0.5

Druckhaus Norden, Dustim, Locher, Barch International (Germany) - 0.4

Koopi (Switzerland) - 0.1

Avante (Portugal) - 0.2

Land of Volk (Denmark) - 0.3

Wig-Trick (Sweden) - 0.1

Peoples Daily World (USA) - 0.1

"Unita" (Italy) - 0.05

Morning Star (England) - 0.1

Rhizospastis (Greece) - 0.1

Kraus (Austria) - 24.6

Papandopoulos (Greece) - 3.7

Agaliou (Greece) - 2.0

"Fidas" (Greece) - 1,5 ... "

Gorbachev already has ripples in his eyes. He quickly looks through two more pages of the list and asks Kruchina: "How many?"

"60 million 350 thousand foreign currency rubles," the manager answers.

"What is the problem? Pay!".

"The problem is that this money should be paid from the state budget, and not from party funds, and there is no money in Vnesheconombank and the State Bank, too."

"What do you mean, no money?"

"We have a huge budget deficit, and the banks refuse to pay."

"All right," the president says, "I will talk to Gerashchenko. Let's figure it out."

And across the country marches, in the words of Gorbachev himself, "a parade of sovereignties." Gorbachev's example was infectious. All former first secretaries of the republican communist parties wanted to be presidents. Moreover, the first secretaries of autonomies within Russia also wanted to become presidents.

They saw an excellent prospect in the process taking place in the country. Having plundered their republics for years, they were forced, in order to ensure their freedom of hands, to pay huge tribute to Moscow, to humiliate themselves in the Kremlin and on Staraya Square, to constantly walk in tension from the possibility of the appearance "above" of some crazy fanatic like Andropov, not to mention about the new Stalin.

Now it was possible to become completely independent from the hated center and live in complete pleasure. Aliyev quietly and imperceptibly disappeared from the Politburo. Shevardnadze began to become clearly weary of his position as Minister of Foreign Affairs and looked attentively at Tbilisi, where, as elsewhere, an anti-communist bacchanalia was unfolding. No, it's probably too early.

The transition of the republican communist parties to "national sovereignty" was accompanied, quite naturally, by "a well-heated and funded campaign of the wildest nationalism", "directed both against immediate neighbors and against the" Russian occupiers "".

Wild massacre was gaining momentum in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In Moldova, the first shots of Moldovans and Russians were fired at each other. Even in the civilized republics of the Baltic states, although without shooting yet, a fierce anti-Russian campaign was already underway. Russian refugees poured from the republics into Russia, where, of course, no one needed them. They abandoned their homes and property, arriving at their "homeland" beggars, hungry, sometimes half-dressed. There was no one to feed them. Their children had no place to study. They had nowhere to live and work.

All the media broadcast appeals to the Russian people to help their compatriots who were in unprecedented trouble. Account numbers were reported, to which they asked to transfer money "as much as they can." Nobody had money. Millions were needed to build houses, schools and kindergartens, to create new jobs, to save their future. The International Red Cross has already joined the cause, parcels for refugees even came from the equatorial Congo. Columns of trucks of the Bundeswehr carried food, tents, warm clothes. American, British, French and even Israeli aircraft operated in the "air bridge" mode, as

as if they were supplying their own encircled army. It's also good that they weren't shot down at the same time ...

Meanwhile, secret "requests" are being considered:

"Top secret. P 145/78 07.01.90

On the request of a member of the leadership of the Communist Party of Finland (Finl.) T. Sipsilo

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Sipsilo, a member of the leadership of the FKP, and allocate to him 1,298,307 Finnish marks for the needs of party building...".

"Top secret. P 196/31 09.01.90

On the request of the leadership of the Communist Party of India

1. Satisfy the request of the leadership of the Communist Party of India and allocate 2 million dollars for election campaigns ...".

"Top secret. 01/12/90

About expenses for political emigrants

As of January 1, 6,643 political emigrants and equated family members who arrived from abroad live in the USSR ... Some prominent foreign figures who live in the USSR on the basis of decisions taken at the initiative of the Central Committee of the CPSU are equated to the category of political emigrants ... They are provided with material assistance and assistance in solving social problems (providing apartments, summer cottages, providing vehicles and maintenance personnel). The total amount of expenses for these purposes is 1.5 million rubles per month. In addition, in accordance with the decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Ivanovo International Boarding School named after A.I. E. D. Stasova, where the children of political emigrants and leaders of the foreign communist movement study, and the Druzhba sanatorium, designed for recreation and treatment of political emigrants and their families ... Expenses for these purposes amounted to 5.5 million rubles in 1989. These funds were allocated from the state budget...".

While nationalist passions were seething in the republics, melting party nomenklatura figures into leaders of national orientation in its cauldron, Russia again began to smoke with black clubs of anti-Semitism. This black smoke screen closed the country before the catastrophe of 1917, the puffs of its stinking smoke covered the coup of 1953, and fell again with relish in the late eighties.

This circumstance aroused general interest. The naive asked the question: is the party, frightened by the possible responsibility for its crimes, trying to hide behind Jewish backs? Or, perhaps, the CPSU, having received a large currency bribe from Israel and world Zionism, thus ensures an unceasing flow of Jewish emigration from the USSR? Otherwise, why should she spend party funds on financing "black" groups and at her own expense print tens of thousands of copies of "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", "Jews and Judaizers", "Affected by Jews", "Ritual Murders of Christian Children by Jews" at their own expense in the printing houses of the Central Committee and regional committees. , "Mein Kampf" by Adolf Hitler and so on, and so on, and so on.

And everyone was wrong. The party simply drove into the market and did not want this process to attract much attention from the population that had become too active.

The formation of Popular Fronts in the republics aroused understandable concern in the CPSU and unwillingness to have anything similar in Russia, where a similar front was also being created. It was not difficult to launch such a front onto the path of anti-Semitism, but

allowing to flush down the toilet most of the national energy.

Detachments marched through the streets, dressed in black uniforms with sword belts or baggy-fitting uniforms of tsarist officers, on which the St. The KGB was still alive, but fundamentally new combat detachments of the Bolshevik Party were already being created. All of them carried fiery posters "Zionism will not pass!" and the image of George the Victorious, piercing a dragon with a spear, in which the star of David was depicted instead of a head. When asked what "Zionism" was, all the Zhidoborts answered without hesitation: "This is democracy." The ideological department of the CPSU could not come up with anything more original. Along with this, monarchist organizations sprang up, hung with double-headed eagles, portraits of the last unfortunate emperor and calls to restore the throne of the Romanovs in the person of Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich. When they want to replace the country's past with the one before the past, this means that neither the country nor the people have a future.

No - and you don't have to. This suited the strategists from the Old Square quite well.

Tracking the situation in the country and seeing the processes taking place in the national republics, inevitably leading to a split and the death of the USSR, the CPSU, preparing in advance for the inevitable, gave birth, albeit in pain, to the Russian Communist Party - the RCP. The new party also had its General Secretary, who was Ivan Polozkov, who had previously held the post of First Secretary of the Krasnodar Territory Committee. The party had both its own Politburo and its own Directorate of Affairs of the Central Committee of the RCP. Everything is as it should be. Not everyone recognized the new party, since its creation was, at first glance, a clear split in the CPSU. But only at first glance. The RKP was created to help the CPSU enter the market without much hindrance. Viktor Tyulkin, a member of the Central Committee and the Politburo of the new Communist Party, stated directly from the rostrum of the congress: "Only those who cannot pronounce the letter 'r' can object to the creation of the RCP. Hush, Jews! Nikolai Ryzhkov, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Prime Minister of the USSR, who was present at the congress, was asked to comment on Tyulkin's principled statement in a Bolshevik way.

The Prime Minister spread his hands sadly: "It's scary... But what can you do?"

Indeed, there was nothing to be done.

True, somewhere on Mount Olympus the Politburo headed by Gorbachev was still meeting, solving the country's pressing issues. On March 12, 1990, the agenda of the meeting of the Politburo included only one question: On the political results of the rallies on February 24-25 and the necessary conclusions from these events. The question is presented by vols. Medvedev (member of the Politburo, chief ideologue of the CPSU), Kryuchkov (member of the Politburo, chairman of the KGB), Razumovsky (member of the Central Committee for ideology) and Sukharev (member of the Central Committee, Prosecutor General of the USSR). Speakers: vols. Kryuchkov and Sukhar

The Politburo issued the following draft decision:

"... It would be a mistake to underestimate the scale and political essence of the past actions. In the growth of the rally element, people are dissatisfied with the instability in society, the crisis in the economy, the difficult financial situation and the imbalance of the market, the decrease in discipline and order, the spread of speculation and rampant crime.

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers it necessary: ... To demand from the heads of law enforcement agencies at all levels to resolutely suppress anti-constitutional actions, everywhere to take tough measures to strengthen public order and law, based on the need ... to protect socialist property ... To stop the irresponsible campaign of discrediting the Armed Forces by all means of propaganda

The forces of the USSR, the KGB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the CPSU. To ensure that the state mass media (radio, television, press) follow the line of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Soviet government, and other bodies of Soviet power in publications.

In the debate, Ryzhkov proposed to include in the decision the expression "people's dissatisfaction with instability in society", and the indomitable Yegor Ligachev introduced a whole paragraph: "To ensure that the communists working in state media (radio, television, print) carry out the party line in publications ...".

Voted: tt. Gorbachev - in favour, with amendments, vols. Ligachev and Ryzhkov.

Vorotnikov - for.

Zaikov - for.

Ivashko - for.

Kryuchkov - for.

Ligachev - in favour, with amendments.

Maslyukov - for.

Medvedev - in favour, as amended, vols. Ligachev and Ryzhkov.

Ryzhkov in favour, with amendments.

Slyunkov is on vacation.

Shevardnadze - for.

Yakovlev - for.

Unanimously! Let the Western media not slander that the Politburo is torn apart by disputes and contradictions, and Gorbachev, they say, does not even talk to Ligachev, and Kryuchkov is not allowed to attend Politburo meetings at all. The party is alive and working for the benefit of the state.

And the next day, March 13, 1990, the 6th article of the country's Constitution was canceled, which secured the political monopoly in the USSR for the CPSU.

The party abandoned its political hegemony. And if you don't fall into euphoria and unforgivable political mistakes, then you should not forget that this happened because the nomenklatura was tired of its current state. She was tired of Marxism-Leninism, the possibilities of which had already been practically exhausted to the bottom. And the idea began to smoke, not only not giving any benefits, but becoming very unsafe.

Now it was much more tempting to become a bourgeoisie in a decent democratic society, where, again, power belongs to those who have money, but democratic laws and the primacy of private property make it possible to exist in a much more free, rich and secure existence.

After the beginning of Gorbachev's perestroika, the nomenklatura flooded to the West, where they were able to make sure that the way of life that they secured for themselves in the USSR at the cost of constant war with their own people was significantly lower than that of the average Western bourgeois, and sometimes even the worker. And there is nothing to say about shops. Any rural store, lost somewhere on the Arkansas highway, contains a richer and better selection of goods than in the highest-ranking special distributor, where not everyone had access.

nomenclature, but for all this distributor served as a kind of standard.

Along with the events in the country and the world, this circumstance greatly puzzled the nomenklatura, forcing them to look for the best way out of the current situation. The Romanian version of the development of events with a sea of blood and thousands of corpses, perhaps, would have suited her if, as a result of this scenario, Ceausescu had not been shot on the spot, and thousands of nomenklaturas had not gone to jail.

The Czech version also did not work, since as a result all the property of the party was confiscated. As in the old days, the nomenclature, having taken note of the events in Europe, decided to go its own way.

Among the middle and small-scale nomenklatura, an intensified and well-thought-out propaganda was carried out. By deceiving the people, we actually deceived ourselves. The artificial poverty created in the country is already sucking us in. Our privileges, if you look at it, are worth nothing. Here you, a responsible worker of the Central Committee, are proud that you and your family occupy a six-room apartment with a swimming pool and have a dacha and a car. And in the West, the most ordinary family lives in the same, if not better, apartment, and the one who is even slightly taller than the ordinary has his own house. In the West, living in apartments is generally considered a sign of insufficient security. Remember Arkady Shevchenko, the former head of the Soviet delegation to the UN, who fled to the States in 1978? You should have looked at his mansion. Compared to it, Gorbachev's dacha in Foros looks like a barn. The fact that you can always, when you want (if the authorities let you go) go to the West, then whom will you surprise there. Yes, any hippie there gets on a motorcycle and travels around all countries. Not really! I am not at all agitating you to flee to the West. The West must be done here. Did you see what happened to Comrade Ceausescu? So this is half the trouble. And God forbid, some psycho like Iosif Vissarionovich or Andropov will appear, and put everyone on a salary, and let him go abroad once every two years for a week, and even then only by decision of the Secretariat of the Central Committee. Remember how everyone howled in 1983, when they were being taken straight from Staraya Ploshchad to the Lubyanka? Where is the guarantee that this will not happen again? We have created a system in the country under which we ourselves live worse than we would live without it. We live well only in comparison with our impoverished population. Think about it, it's a pathology to live worse than we could, just for the sake of making everyone else in this country even worse. Power?

Power will be given by money. In the meantime, excuse me, we are losing power every day, and every day we multiply the number of our enemies.

Of course, some "oak" figures of the upper echelon of the nomenklatura would not want to listen to anything like that, but they were few, and it was not they who determined the policy of "Through the Looking Glass".

The party abandoned the 6th article of the Constitution in time. However, apart from the CPSU, in the country, despite the "rampant democracy", there was still not a single political party as such, not to mention the possibility of any political groups confronting the powerful party apparatus, which still controls the KGB and the army, which controls the national riches, controlling the means of communication and the mass media. The country has not yet repealed a single law regulating economic or financial activity, which allowed the CPSU to easily eliminate competitors from the road and enter the market with unfurled party banners. On the very day of the abolition of the 6th article of the Constitution, the teletypes of the Old Square chimed out a secret cipher message:

"02/13/1990. On the need to consider certain legal aspects of the life of the party in connection with the results of the February (1990) plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

After the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU recognized the possibility of a transition to a multi-party system in the USSR, apparently, the formation of new parties will begin in the near future... corresponding proposals to the Council of Ministers of the USSR ... We cannot rule out the possibility of increasing demands for the seizure of the party's property, primarily buildings provided to party committees, other organizations and institutions of the CPSU: publishing houses, printing houses, rest houses, sanatoriums and other social facilities, transport funds and so on. In this regard, it is necessary to immediately carry out a set of measures to secure the right of the CPSU to own the said property...

It seems that it is necessary to urgently consider the issue of the grounds and procedure for using special means of communication (in particular, encrypted communication, HF, government communication lines) that the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Central Committee of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, a number of other party committees have at their disposal ... In addition, we would consider it necessary to work out the problems information support for the activities of the party, the protection of party secrets, the leaders of the CPSU (who do not occupy the highest state posts), the buildings of the CPSU, the Central Committee of the Communist Parties of the union republics, and other party institutions, given that in the new conditions, it would apparently be inappropriate to involve the KGB of the USSR for these purposes " .

But for now, the KGB is still at the disposal of the native party. And it can be put to great use. KGB Colonel Veselovsky was unexpectedly summoned to see General Bobkov, Deputy Chairman of the KGB. Veselovsky served in the First Main Directorate of the KGB (foreign intelligence), engaging in a very unique activity. Staying for many years in countries where the activities of the Communist parties (and the Communist parties themselves) are prohibited by law. Veselovsky created legal economic sources of subsistence for these underground parties and developed various methods of laundering underground party funds received either from the USSR or through ordinary robbery. Even if the legal communist parties never wanted to reckon with the laws of their countries, then for the underground the law was not written at all. Here they traded weapons, and drugs, and slaves, and stolen goods of any origin, rowed their own from prostitutes, gambling houses, street vendors, from farmers - in general, from anything. But getting caught was extremely dangerous. If, say, in France, the "burnt out" communists could count on the protection of the court and the law, then in countries where the communists were outside the law, they were not on ceremony.

They beat me with a cleaver on my hamstrings and threw me into a cage with crocodiles. For the benefit of others.

Therefore, Veselovsky, who not without reason considered himself an experienced international economist (with a degree, of course), in every possible way helped his classmates to create such underground financial and economic structures so as not to ever get caught. Now he had to apply the accumulated experience in his homeland. General Bobkov announced to the colonel that at the request of the leadership of the CPSU in the person of comrades Ivashko and Kruchina and in agreement with Kryuchkov, he, Veselovsky, was being transferred to work in the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU to the post of deputy head of the sector for coordinating the economic activities of economic services.

The soldier of the party remains its soldier in any position entrusted to him. During the years of its existence, the Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU perfectly learned how to spend money, but no one there, of course, knew how to earn it. Therefore, they decided to call for help "specialists" like Veselovsky. It didn't bother anyone. In fact, throughout its history, even being at the zenith of its unlimited power in the country, the CPSU was essentially an underground, carefully conspiratorial organization that believed that it would lose its authority if it released any document, say, on the number of abortions in Moscow, without

labeled "top secret". Such behavior was dictated by all the unwritten (and written) laws of the illegally created country of the Nomenklatura.

Veselovsky quickly realized what was expected of him. Using his rich foreign experience, the colonel, ignoring the law with his usual ease, soon submitted an analytical note to Kruchina, which, in the best traditions of party phraseology, was titled:

"On Additional Measures for the Consolidation and Effective Use of Party Property". The note read, in part:

"... The monetary resources reflected in financial documents can be openly invested only in public, social or charitable funds, which will make it difficult to confiscate them in the future. Funds received in the form of income to the party fund and not reflected in financial documents should be used to purchase anonymous shares, funds of individual companies, enterprises, banks, which, on the one hand, will provide a stable income regardless of the further position of the party, and on the other - at any time, these shares can be sold on stock exchanges with the subsequent placement of capital in other areas in order to depersonalize party participation, but with the preservation of control ... The adoption of these measures will require organizing an urgent selection of especially trusted persons who will be entrusted with the implementation of certain items of the program, not the possibility of creating a category of secret members of the party who will ensure its vital activity in any conditions of the emergency period is excluded ...".

The thoughts of an experienced illegal intelligence agent, abandoned this time in his own rear, were so simple and brilliant that the admiring Kruchina immediately ordered the printing house of the Central Committee of the CPSU to print a circulation of 50 thousand copies of a receipt with the following content:

"Personal commitment to the CPSU

I, a member of the CPSU..... of the year, party card N.....I hereby confirm my conscious and voluntary decision to become a trustee of the party and to fulfill the tasks entrusted to me by the party at any post and in any situation, without disclosing my belonging to the institution of trustees. I undertake to keep and carefully use in the interests of the party the financial and material resources entrusted to me, the return of which I guarantee at its first request. I recognize all the funds earned by me as a result of economic activity for the funds of the party as its property, I guarantee their transfer at any time and in any place. I undertake to maintain strict confidentiality of the information entrusted to me and to carry out the instructions of the Party, transmitted to me through authorized persons.

Signature of a member of the CPSU.....

Signature of the person who accepted the obligations....."

The commitment forms with the green diagonal stripe were not the same.

Some were printed in the Cyrillic alphabet, others in the Latin alphabet, and others mysteriously beckoned to themselves with a web of Arabic script and labyrinths of hieroglyphs.

Nikolai Kruchina personally entered names, surnames and numbers of party cards into some of them, referring to a thick book, all the pages of which were laced and sealed with a wax seal, and the names could not be made out due to a whole collection of blue, red and purple stamps of strict secrecy, which turned cover in some kind of abstract painting. Meanwhile, the creative thought of an illegal colonel from the KGB

flew further:

"We are talking about the creation in one of the capitalist countries with benign tax legislation, for example, in Switzerland, a joint-stock company engaged in all types of information and intermediary activities: trading, brokerage, mediation, representation. Shareholders are trustees. At the initial stage, a list of future shareholders is determined.

Accounts are opened in the banks of the country where JSCs are supposed to be based in the name of the shareholders, and the corresponding amounts are deposited in these accounts. Then a joint venture is immediately created on the territory of the Soviet Union. Most of the profits of a joint-stock company can be paid (by decision of the board) in the form of dividends to shareholders. As noted above, the shareholders are persons who are trusted by the Soviet founding organization (CPSU). Thus, the ways of further use of dividends are determined by the Soviet side. It also means the complete impossibility of control over the use of these funds by any other organizations, individuals, except for the party...".

In other words, Veselovsky proposed to create a whole network of international joint-stock companies and replace them with unreliable firms of "friends", the number of which was dwindling catastrophically. Handing over his work to Kruchina, Veselovsky, not having a very high opinion of the comprehension of the party apparatchiks in complex issues of the underground economy, attached a small note to his program:

"N. E. (Nikolai Efimovich). Confidentially, in 1 copy. If you do, then only with the KGB." One would think that Kruchina was going to pull off such global scams with the community of St. Eugenia! Although the highly experienced colonel had every reason to believe that starting such games on a global scale, a kind of world revolution, the CPSU would certainly connect powerful rivals of the KGB - the American CIA and the Israeli Mossad - to these games. But Colonel Veselovsky, as is usual in his department, knew only what he was supposed to know, and he could only guess about the rest.

Moving from general words to concrete deeds, Veselovsky proposed the creation of a diversified joint-stock company together with the Swiss-Canadian company "Seabeco Group" and the Union of Afghan Veterans.

Within its framework, it was assumed: the banking system, an airline, an international trading house, a privatization fund, a network of holding companies in various regions of the country. The colonel determined the term of this project at 50 years.

A significant part of the profits, of course, was intended for the CPSU. While the "godfather" of the new party economy was moving from his perverse and criminal theoretical ideas to practical actions, his "sixth sense" of the old intelligence officer, which made him call on Kruchina "to work only with the KGB", turned out to be, as always, accurate ... Radio operators of a luxurious three-deck yacht "Lady Ghyslaine, slicing through the blue lagoon of one of the Bahamas with her graceful stem, received an encrypted radiogram addressed to the owner of the yacht, Robert Maxwell, an English billionaire, owner of a whole bunch of newspapers, publishing houses and information centers.

There was nothing special in the very fact of receiving the ciphertext. Maxwell, or "Captain Bob," as he was called by close friends and rival newspapers, corresponded in cipher with half the world, keeping most of the keys to the different fonts in his own head. The radio message was short: "Provide transfer according to plan three." There was no signature, but Maxwell did not need it.

A native of a poor Jewish town in Slovakia, Maxwell served in British intelligence during the Second World War, finishing his service with the rank of captain. After graduation

of the war, "Captain Bob" worked for some time in the "Foreign Office" of Great Britain. In those years, the intelligence and diplomatic services of the West were very interested in the details of Comrade Stalin's global fantasy plan, some details of which leaked through the Iron Curtain.

Iosif Vissarionovich was preparing a counterattack against the dollar that had taken its toll.

His bright dream was, having accumulated more gold, to buy a huge amount of Western currency and bring down this shaft on the enemy, bringing the dollar to complete insignificance, and the Western economy into a state of chaos. The commodity hunger in the USSR would hardly have allowed Stalin to carry out his plans - Stalin was always mistaken somewhere in the third sign, which either led to the collapse of his plans, or made them completely unprofitable. Nevertheless, the West was concerned, and "Captain Bob" was just working in this direction, trying to collect more information regarding the financial plans of the leader of all peoples. How successful British intelligence (the most cunning in the world) succeeded in this field is hard to say, but at the height of his activities, Robert Maxwell unexpectedly resigned, and for only 13 thousand pounds bought the Pergamon Press publishing house - the same Pergamon Press, which, according to the secret certificate of the head of the international department of the Central Committee of the CPSU Comrade Falin, submitted to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Comrade Gorbachev, was on the list of "friends" firms and made claims to the Soviet Union for 500 thousand dollars.

By 1961, the publishing house bought by Maxwell was already estimated at \$10.6 million, and by the 80s, "Captain Bob" owned a huge publishing and information empire with branches on all five continents, which had the official name "Maxwell Communication Corporation" and tentacles in all countries of the world, including the Soviet Union, where Maxwell was affectionately called the "First Secretary of the London Regional Committee." In the USSR, Maxwell achieved the seemingly impossible. In the police-terrorist state, the possibility of sustainable Jewish emigration to Israel and the United States was established. Moreover, for a long time, only Jews had the right to leave the huge concentration camp called the Soviet Union. [38]

In time, this coincided with the start of the publication of the "works" of Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders in publishing houses owned by Maxwell, as well as with the revival of lending to the USSR by Western banks. But if the loans were just a payment (and very cheap) for the brain drain from the USSR, then the publication of the "works" of the party leaders was a very entertaining and instructive operation. There is no need to say how "famously" these works dispersed within the country, annually secretly written off in cubic kilometers into waste paper, but for some reason no one ever wondered how these "works" in

market conditions diverge in the West? And no better than in the USSR. But this made it possible for our "leaders" to answer the question of where they, in fact, have foreign currency, to answer stereotypically for decades: "For the publication of books in the West."

This is how things turned out. The Kremlin paid Maxwell for paper and printing costs at world market prices, and the book itself was printed either in Moscow, or in the GDR or Czechoslovakia on a non-currency basis. The currency settled on the bank accounts of the nomenklatura, and 15% fell to Maxwell himself. The question is, for what? For covering up the official channel for pumping money to the West, through which billions of dollars passed. But so that "Captain Bob" would not be caught on pure fraud, fictitious documents were drawn up that the entire circulation was purchased for foreign currency by Soviet embassies in all countries of the globe where these embassies exist. And books were honestly imported there, gradually filling up all the attics and utility rooms of the huge embassy buildings. The embassies howled, but could not do anything. They were ordered to distribute these books, which was an incredibly difficult and, as practice has shown, a completely impossible task. However, if we raise documents on book editions from "Selected Speeches of N. S. Khrushchev" to "New

thinking" by Gorbachev, not to mention the numerous reprints of the classics of Marxism in all languages of the planet, it turns out that all these years the foreign reader has simply been doing nothing else but running around the shops buying up these "bestsellers". And then he demanded to order new circulations in the USSR.

But the many-sided activity of Maxwell, of course, was not limited to such trifles. Using his connections with Western banks and owning shares in many of them, "Captain Bob" from time to time helped the nomenklatura of the world's first country of "developed socialism" to earn currency through the so-called "transfer operations".

The essence of these operations was to sell in the West large sums of Soviet cash for dollars. And since the printing press was in the hands of the nomenklatura, there were no problems with Soviet cash. Any amount of money could be printed.

Any Soviet person knows from childhood that our ruble is "wooden", is not backed by anything and exists only for internal circulation. This is for the slaves. And at the level of the nomenclature, this ruble is very secure, so secure that even the dollar could not even dream of. On the banknotes there is an inscription that they are "provided with all the property of the USSR." Domestically, this means absolutely nothing, but for Western banks it means a lot. What is the property of the USSR - this is land with an area of \u200b\u200bone-sixth of the land, these are forests, this is subsoil, this is a multi-million unpretentious population, this is any brick. And presenting huge amounts for payment, Western banks have always had the opportunity to suck something out of our "property" within the limits of the amount presented. This curbed the lawlessness of the nomenklatura, since transfers for the ruble usually gave 10-15 cents in good times, not to mention the fact that such transactions in all Western countries smelled strongly of criminality, and not all banks agreed to these operations. Here, Maxwell's personal connections were needed, who was, as they say, "on you" with most of the world's business bigwigs and big-time politicians.

Thus, as it were, the plan of Comrade Stalin was carried out, but only in reverse. At the same time, no one moved the money. Soviet money remained in the USSR State Bank and only changed the owner of the account. Somewhere in the bowels of European banks, dollars flowed into the personal accounts of the nomenklatura. And the huge money supply accumulated in Soviet banks, but no longer belonging to the USSR, was ready to explode at any moment, creating, at best, 1000% inflation due to the official inconvertibility of the ruble, while dollars served only to strengthen the Western economy.

Those few people in the West who, like Robert Maxwell, knew about such dark deeds of the Soviet nomenklatura, theoretically already imagined the possibility of buying up all the cash in the USSR in general, which was tantamount to the unconditional surrender of the communist regime, since the only way out of such a situation could only be the beginning third world war. Knowing some irresponsibility of the Kremlin rulers and their advanced age, the West was worried that the transfer lawlessness could lead to unpredictable political consequences. After all, Brezhnev once reacted to another report on an acute shortage of fodder grain with the phrase: "Let's start a war and take grain in the West." It was a joke, but there was a hint in it that betrayed the secret aspirations of the leadership of the CPSU, inspired by sweet dreams. When dealing with a country where there is no public opinion and everything is controlled by a criminal organization, one must be extremely careful. And among other things, before starting such an operation, it was necessary to bring the exchange rate of the ruble and the dollar into a ratio at which it was possible to buy the maximum number of rubles at the minimum cost of dollars.

Lately, Maxwell has been feverishly buying up foreign currency, fearlessly getting into debt,

which reached two billion dollars. Quite unexpectedly, he also sold his first child, Pergamon Press, for £446 million. To whom did the money go? Probably the one who once gave a retired captain of British intelligence 13,000 pounds to buy this publishing house, which was on the list of firms of "friends" of the CPSU. "Plan Three" meant that the time for final settlement of the old bills was approaching...[39]

"Top secret. Cipher ZYUDI

We have just received from the first address: directly from a Russian bank, an offer worth more than 100 billion Soviet rubles at a price of 6.62 US dollars per 100 rubles.

Do you have a potential buyer? "Then further details could be specifically discussed."

"The addressee expresses concern about the reliability of your partner and the possible penetration of Interpol into the circle of interests. Is it possible to change the procedure?

"Our partner is the direct representative of the Russian state bank, who will personally oversee and control the entire transaction from Zurich. Deviations from the prescribed procedure are very difficult and will entail problems ... "

"Your fears that the "authorized" are the objects of Interpol are groundless. The colossal sums offered by them, the documents properly drawn up and the mottos known to you could not be received without the knowledge of the State Bank, the Ministry of Finance and the Government of the USSR.

The Minister of Finance of the USSR was a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU Valentin Pavlov.

The manager of the State Bank is Leonid Gerashchenko, a candidate member of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The Prime Minister is a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The head of state is General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Without questioning your information, we, nevertheless, would like to send directly one of our people to Moscow to make sure that such proposals really come from the government of the country, and not from structures that can bring disaster to our financial house ..." .

While such detective events were unfolding at the very top, and the Lady Ghyslaine radio station, like a hunting horn, raised the financial pack of the whole world, ready to tear the Soviet Union to pieces, but not yet fully believing that the hour had come, the CPSU continued evacuation measures, being, as always, the organizer and inspirer.

The classic Leninist slogan: "ROBING THE POOLS!" has been transformed long ago by life itself into a new one: "ROBING THE ROBBED!".

"Secret. Directive. 08/23/1990

... The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU and the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU acted as co-founders of three commercial banks (Compartbank in Alma-Ata, Glavmoststroybank in Moscow and the commercial bank Rossiya in Leningrad) ...

Party organizations at various levels began placing deposit resources in commercial banks. However, at the level of the central organs of the party, a certain slowness is allowed in this important matter ...
".

A certain slowness was due to the fact that competitors climbed from all sides, interfering with work. Various public groups and individuals began to organize enterprises, cooperatives, banks, and even (oh, horror!) to establish independent ties with foreign countries. And although the CPSU was already considered just one of the country's public organizations (by the way, not officially registered) and no matter how it could interfere in anything, its faithful combat detachment - the KGB, the most powerful state, and not a public structure - offended its own party didn't give. The arrests of entrepreneurs have already begun to take on the features of a new wave of terror. The case of the Shepelikha cooperative, the case of Korobochkin, the case of the Magadan JV Spark, the case of Alfred Schopenberg, searches, confiscations, inciting racketeer gangs created with their own money against entrepreneurs, a new wave of corruption - all this, although it looked like political terror, in reality was the elimination competitors.

The KGB finally found itself, becoming the party's official racketeer. But this role no longer suited the KGB. Every racketeer in his heart also wants to become an entrepreneur and act on a broad merchant scale, and not just run around the gates with brass knuckles, intimidating cooperators.

The first Main Directorate of the KGB, stuffed with specialists like Colonel Veselovsky, was not at all going to serve only ideas to the Managers of the Central Committee of the CPSU. It also wanted to independently implement the rich experience of underground work on a global scale. The PGU creates the ANT concern, appointing its officer Ryashentsev as its director, having conceived the idea of earning tens of two billion dollars on the independent arms trade from its own secret warehouses. But the CPSU knows well its native combat detachment, and what it is capable of, thank God, they suffered together for more than 70 years in various class and internecine battles. The 6th Directorate of the KGB in Novorossiysk covers the tanks of the 1st Directorate, which, with a false invoice, were sent abroad under the guise of agricultural equipment to some dashing dealer. A huge scandal erupted. It turned out that PSU had managed to involve many influential people in its affairs, including Prime Minister Ryzhkov. A furious intradepartmental struggle began. The 6th department of the KGB even released a Sudanese provocateur into the world of God, who was supposed to give people from PGU a bribe of 140 thousand dollars. And in Budapest. But there were not boys at PSU either. The Sudanese was exposed as a provocateur of the KGB, the case was submitted to the Supreme Council and turned in a very original way: it turns out that the cooperators are to blame for everything. After all, ANT was a cooperative. But the deal fell through, because the CPSU did not like amateur performances.

Everything must be coordinated in accordance with the principles of party discipline. Like, for example, comrades from Leningrad. It's not easy for them either.

"09/27/1990 Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU

Top secret.

On June 27, 1990, the commercial bank Rossiya was registered with the State Bank of the USSR under No. 328 with an authorized fund of 31 million rubles. In agreement with the Central Committee of the CPSU, the main founder of the bank was the Department of Affairs of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU. Given the high intellectual, professional, industrial and financial potential of the founding shareholders, one can foresee a high moral and commercial return on funds invested in banking. After obtaining a license, the bank will be able to carry out credit and settlement and other banking operations in foreign currency. According to the share in the authorized capital of the bank, the main part of the profit due to its founders will go to the party fund.

However, due to the deteriorating economic situation and the aggravation of the political

situation in the country, I consider it possible to transfer credit resources in the amount of 500 million rubles from the party's reserve fund to the deposit of Rossiya Bank at the rate of 3-4% per annum for up to three years. This will create a stable base for financing the activities of the central party bodies.

Secretary of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU B. Gidasov "

Gidasov has always been distinguished by indomitable energy and a thirst for vigorous activity. Not so long ago, Gorbachev personally came to Leningrad to dismiss Solovyov, who did not understand the essence of perestroika, from the post of the former secretary of the regional committee, and appoint Gidasov. He made up his mind about himself. 500 million rubles at 3-4% per annum! Gorbachev may have loved Gidasov, but Kruchina did not like him, he considered him an upstart. He did not like the manager of the affairs of the Leningrad Regional Committee Krutikhin, although it is not known why. Did not love
- and that's it.

"... The Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU would consider it possible to partially agree with the request of the Leningrad Regional Party Committee and send 50 million rubles from the CPSU insurance fund to the deposit of the commercial bank Rossiya for a period of two years at the rate of 6% per annum ...

Manager of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU N. Kruchina.

Having cooled the excessive appetites of the Leningrad Regional Committee, Kruchina plunged headlong into more important matters. With the help of the transfer, it was planned to turn 280 billion rubles into 12 billion dollars in the near future. Approximately 15-18 rubles per dollar. It is impossible to delay, because in the near future it will be necessary to sharply increase the exchange rate of the dollar against the ruble, and by this time, such an amount of currency should have settled on accounts in Western banks, with the help of which it would be possible not only to privatize all party property, but also to privatize the entire Soviet Union thus leaving everything in the hands of the party. Quite recently, in July 1990, Kruchina, speaking at the XXVIII Congress of the CPSU and not yet assuming that this was the last congress, delivered a fiery speech, rejecting all the speculations of slanderers regarding the currency transactions of the CPSU abroad; Kruchina swore that the party lives only on contributions: "The CPSU does not have any deposits in banks abroad and property abroad. There is one source of foreign exchange earnings: membership dues of communists working abroad, who pay membership dues in foreign currency from the foreign exchange part of the salary. These receipts were credited to the state's foreign exchange income. Their amount was reimbursed to the party budget in the ruble equivalent, converted into the corresponding currency at the rate of the corresponding currencies ... The currency for the needs of the party bodies was allocated to us in the general manner, as well as to other ministries and departments, with our reimbursement to the Ministry of Finance of its cost in Soviet rubles also at the current exchange rate of the relevant

currencies...".

In short, if we have any privilege, it is the privilege of being the first to attack the machine guns. For 70 years, the party has lied so much that every year it lied less and less convincingly.

"Top secret. P 286/72 dated 10/30/1990

On the request of Comrade Gus Hall, General Secretary of the US Communist Party

1. Satisfy the request of Comrade Hess Hall, General Secretary of the US Communist Party, and allocate 2 million dollars to him in 1991...".

Gorbachev raised his eyes to Kruchina: "Something often we transfer money to Hall."

"This is not for him," Kruchina explained, "this is for us. In order to help each other."

"For firms" friends? "" - asked the secretary general. He always did not understand when it was beneficial to him.

"By the way, about the firms of "friends". Firms are burning. We don't have money to pay them. It is necessary to take from the state budget, but Gerashchenko and Pavlov are not given. They have some big expenses. Comrade Falin again presented a memorandum:

Since the end of 1989, the firms of "friends" (France, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Austria, Sweden, Uruguay) have been facing increasing difficulties due to non-payment by Soviet contractors of money for goods delivered to our country. Several times, for this reason, firms found themselves on the verge of bankruptcy, and only the intervention of M. S. Gorbachev in response to a direct appeal to the Central Committee of the CPSU vols. A. Kunjala, G. Plisanje, G. Christofias, D. Silmermeier, the leadership of the Workers' Party of Greece and the Workers' Party - Communists of Sweden allowed to defuse the critical situation for a while.

In recent weeks, a particularly acute crisis with the repayment of our debt has developed among the firms of "friends" in France, Austria and Sweden ... As of October 10, 1990, the situation with our debts to the firms of "friends" is as follows:

The Communist Party of France is the Interagra company (supplies grain, butter, meat and meat products to the USSR for special trade). She has been presented with bills for \$138 million, of which \$60-70 million is in arrears. The question was reported on October 8 this year. Mr. M. S. Gorbachev. Vnesheconombank was instructed to take urgent measures. According to the bank (Yu. S. Moskovsky), 9 million dollars were transferred to Paris on October 11 this year. and another \$1.5 million will be transferred today.

The rest is meant to be repaid from a French loan, negotiations on which have not yet started.

The Workers' Party - the Communists of Sweden - the party printing house "Vig Truk Product AB" cannot receive payments of 3 million Swedish crowns from Vneshtorgizdat. The Soviet Ambassador informs that in the event of a further delay in the repayment of our debt, the bankruptcy of the printing house may occur in 7-10 days. In this case, the publication of the printed organ Norschensflamman will be endangered.

The Communist Party of Austria is the Kraus & K° company (supplies consumer goods for special trade). The arrears exceeded 30 million dollars and 31 million Austrian schillings.

The Communist Party of Portugal is the company Comercio International, Espor / Ejosua (Spain), Metalime, Tagol (supplies of vegetable oils, shoes, gloves, plastic bags and steel tape). The debt has been partially repaid and is currently valued at \$11 million.

The Communist Party of Greece is the VEK company (supplies of shoes by exporters Agapiou and Rector for special trade). The debt was partially repaid (up to \$3 million) in July this year. and is currently valued at \$8 million.

AKEL - the Communist Party of Cyprus - the firms of "friends" "Delta" and "LOEL" (supply grape juice, jams and shoes for special trade). The debt was partially repaid in July this year. (\$4.2 million) and is currently valued at \$8 million.

The specificity of this aspect of our debt lies in the fact that, as a rule, we are talking about amounts that are insignificant on a national scale, which, however, are of vital importance to "friends". (Remember - "Urgently Needed \$3,000 for Children

Chernobyl. Wheelchairs and prostheses for Afghan veterans. Disposable syringes for earthquake victims." All you need is 10 thousand dollars. But where can you get them? Unless Western firms donate. And if not? No - so no! Comrade Falin will not intercede for this. - I. B.).

It is desirable that Vnesheconombank agree to pay off the debts of the firms of its "friends" on a permanent basis on an extraordinary basis. After all, one cannot turn to MS Gorbachev every time with a request to intervene in the solution of these issues. V. Falin.

Attached to the note was a small note that read:

"On July 17 of this year, a representative of the Greek company VEK, sharing plans to open stores in Moscow and turning to the party for help on this occasion, wrote: "Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our readiness to cooperate in the field of trade with the department responsible for this CPSU. We are confident that there are many common interests in the development of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Comrades, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your party's help, which has enabled our Moscow representation to become the main source of income for our party."

Gorbachev carefully read Falin's note: "Is it addressed to me or to Pavlov?"

"Pavlov does not give money," Kruchina replied.

"Where do I get the money from?" Gorbachev asked.

"We have no money," agreed Kruchina. "All these expenses have always been provided from the state budget."

For many years firms of "friends" supplied the Nomenklatura with goods and food at a cheap price. Even water was sent in special cylinders, since the nomenklatura quite rightly did not want to use domestic poisoned water. The goods, of course, were by Western standards, to put it mildly, second-rate, but by Soviet standards they were fabulous. The people, of course, did not see them in the eyes. Only rumors flew about some fabulous Austrian women's boots, which are sold in a special distributor for 18 rubles per pair. Now the party, entering the market with a trillion fortune, organizing its own joint-stock companies, trading firms and banks, is no longer satisfied with the firms of "friends". In the new prospects that have opened up, yesterday's breadwinners began to look pathetic and unprofitable. The rest of their debts were never paid. In common parlance, those who took the goods, but did not pay the money, are called "scammers" (threw a partner on rusty nails). Usually such cases lead to major showdowns, sometimes even with shooting, explosions and arson, with corpses and kidnappings of children. Waves of fraud, rolling on waves of corruption and arbitrariness, flooded the country like a great flood. The party could be satisfied. For decades, the CPSU educated the people, setting the tone. No country has ever entered the market with such a wildly immoral state of society, from the Central Committee of the CPSU to the last cooperative stall. So the firms of "friends" simply fell into the millstones of history. Only Valentin Falin (I hope disinterestedly) reminded them of them, asking for money either from Kruchina or Pavlov.

I must say that Pavlov had money. But he had no intention of wasting it on the international labor movement. Just at that time, Finance Minister Pavlov, who was soon to become prime minister, his first deputy Orlov, and the chairman of the board of the State Bank, Gerashchenko, were receiving a certain Schmid, who had flown in from Zurich, in a secluded place. Schmid worked in Herigiswil, known as the Swiss tax haven, for a not-so-famous Bürogemeinschaft brokerage firm in dark

cases across the entire spectrum of the global spectrum. The Swiss flew to Moscow to see for himself that the proposed, absolutely fantastic, transfer is not a trap of smart people from Interpol, but a really solid offer from responsible people with financial powers. Offers exceeded all expectations. He was offered 280 billion rubles. Schmid believed that it would be about 100 billion, and did not expect such a sum. This is not a fantastic, but a super-fantastic transfer that exposes the USSR to a terrible financial blow from the West. Schmid was a financier and knew something about the financial situation of the Soviet Union. He knew, in particular, that only 139 billion rubles were in circulation in the USSR.

"Are you going to withdraw this money from circulation?" he cautiously asked Pavlov. "Partially," replied the Minister of Finance, stretching his lips into the famous Pavlovian smile. But don't think we're idiots. We are rich. Don't worry about us." Schmid shook shoulders.

We agreed to act in four stages.

The first stage was in December 1990. 100 billion rubles for 5.5 billion dollars.

The second stage - in January 1991. 25 billion rubles.

The third stage - in May 1991. 15 billion rubles. For the second and third stages - \$ 2 billion.

And finally, the fourth stage - in July 1991. 140 billion rubles for 4.5 billion dollars.

Total for 280 billion rubles 12 billion dollars.

"Those who sent you," Pavlov concluded the meeting, "know the account numbers. At the last stage, Mr. Orlov will personally control the deal. And don't think that's all. We still have a lot of money." Pavlov spoke the pure truth.

The money printing press was at his complete disposal, and in which case it was possible to withdraw part of the money from the population. Nothing, they won't die. And if they die, that is their fate. Stunned and delighted, Schmid flew home.

Everything happened in his life. But this is not yet. He had just actually bought the Soviet Union for only \$12 billion!

Nikolai Kruchina also had money, but at every opportunity he did not miss the opportunity to put his hand into the state budget. Although he did not like the leaders of the Leningrad Regional Committee, he gave them 50 million instead of the requested 500, not at all out of greed. In such a trifling sum, Pavlov would never have been able to refuse him. Kruchina simply knew more than Gidasov and his manager Krutikhin. The Leningrad comrades became the founders of Rossiya Bank. On the one hand, this is good, but on the other hand, party banks set a bad example, and everyone who is not lazy is trying to establish a bank. That's not how things will work. The Politburo has already discussed the issue of banning public organizations from establishing banks and engaging in commercial activities. But the CPSU is also a public organization. The CPSU will not touch it. What, what, but the party knows how to conspire better than all the secret societies in the world! So it's better not to send the five hundred millions requested to Leningrad for the time being. Conspiracy is conspiracy, what if they fall asleep? It's such a shame, though. Leningrad comrades always try to be ahead of the whole country. It would be better to study in Moscow according to Comrade Veselovsky's method.

And the creative thought of the intelligence economist, indomitably flying forward, became

materialize in very specific cases, causing genuine admiration in Kruchina. He even petitioned for Veselovsky to be promoted to the rank of major general, but Kryuchkov did not show any enthusiasm for this, dryly referring to the lack of full-time positions ... and money. Kruchina out of place recalled the 50 tons of gold that were kept on the balance sheet of the KGB, and even made a note on the calendar that this matter should be dealt with.

Veselovsky, remaining a colonel, was not at all upset. Generals, admirals... All this is a thing of the past. New times are coming. Literally in an hour, Veselovsky created an exemplary family of Soviet millionaires, convincing Kruchina to "give" this family 400 million rubles of party money. As a result, a good friend of Veselovsky, the former chief technologist of NPO Kauchuk, M. Khotimsky unexpectedly became the head of four companies at once: the Galaktik small enterprise, the Jobrus limited liability company, the Holding LTD company and the Moscow Municipal Association. His wife M. Khotimskaya became the founder of Galaktik, and her brother V. Kravets became the general director of Jobrus. In turn, Kravets' wife, a dancer by profession, became the founder of both companies. The KGB Lieutenant Colonel Grebenshchikov, who was formally dismissed from the department, but continued to carry a pistol and an identity card, became the general director of the largest company in this family. His main task was to ensure that the new millionaires behaved obediently and did not throw out something unexpected. Firms, of course, did not produce anything, but were engaged in the resale of toilet water and beer, and therefore the income was huge.

Veselovsky reported to Kruchina: "As a result of established connections with various foreign companies, I have the opportunity to solve even more serious economic problems. In particular, such as obtaining financial loans from private financial groups (up to 100 billion dollars for 10-12 years) ... I partially reported these issues orally and in writing to Pavlov, Sitaryan, Znamensky, Primakov, Gerashchenko and ... orally received formal approval from these persons..."

The fully approved method of Colonel Veselovsky began to be introduced throughout the country. In just a few months, using the method of an illegal intelligence officer, the CPSU organized 1,453 joint ventures with foreign firms, joint-stock companies with mixed capital at its own expense, investing 14 billion rubles and 5 billion dollars in commercial structures.

But the economist Veselovsky never forgot that he was a KGB colonel. And even if he wanted to forget, he would not be allowed to do so. He also performed the duties of a scout in the bowels of the Central Committee of his native party, which, before his eyes, was shedding the image of the party of the working class, turning into a transnational cartel. The colonel had the task to find out more party secrets, but either the conspiracy in the Central Committee was much higher than in any intelligence service in the world, and the party was excellent at planting misinformation in the KGB, or Kruchina simply turned Veselovsky around, since his reports were addressed to his immediate superior, General Grushko (who replaced Bobkov) look already quite pathetic, in no way worthy of a professional of this level:

"In the course of my work in the Central Committee, important ... points became known to me:

1. The property of the CPSU is dispersed among organizations of various levels, which did not allow quick decisions to be made ... The UD of the Central Committee did not have a complete picture of the state of affairs of its own party ...

2. Funding was also dispersed. UD controlled only the central budget, the deficit of which by the middle of 1991 reached 500 million rubles.

3. There was no clarity on the party's foreign currency. They were partly controlled by the leadership of the Central Committee, which was engaged in international activities. But the impression was that neither Dzasokhov nor Falin had accurate information on this issue. Much remained closed to the old leaders, among whom a number of accounts abroad, according to some sources, were controlled by Brutents (Gorbachev's adviser)."

Veselovsky's special task was to sniff out details about the so-called Scientific and Industrial Union and the Simako concern, to which the leadership of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Kruchin personally treated with the most cordial disposition. The party invested huge amounts of money in the Union and in the concern, since it was nothing more than the famous military-industrial complex - the Military Industrial Complex - that branch of the Soviet industry that still worked efficiently, producing all kinds of weapons. Arkady Volsky, a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, headed the NPS and the Simako concern. In the past, a petty official of the party apparatus, Andropov somehow liked him, who appointed him his assistant and handed him over to Gorbachev.

Now both the Union and the concern were engaged in very dark, but large-scale affairs. With the help of Pavlov, who became prime minister, they traded the country's military secrets, as a result of which they were able to exchange rubles for dollars at a fabulous rate of 1.8 rubles per dollar. They traded in large quantities of weapons and military equipment, participating in other very dubious operations. The concern had its own security service, consisting of KGB officers withdrawn to the reserve, who retained their service certificates and the right to bear arms.

Veselovsky reported all this to both Grushko and Kryuchkov himself. Both listened to him coldly and advised him not to "get involved" in global projects, but to work exclusively on the creation of methods. A few days later, Volsky, personally arriving at the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU, made a scandal to Kruchina and demanded that the "spy" Veselovsky be immediately removed from the holy of holies of the party.

Veselovsky realized that he was caught between two fires: neither the leadership of the KGB nor the leadership of the Central Committee supported him. The case for the Soviet intelligence officer is not uncommon. The colonel mothballed, quite reasonably fearing for his life.

But Veselovsky's method marched victoriously through party property.

The Leningrad comrades, who were always eager to be at the forefront of the whole country, appreciated the method of Colonel Veselovsky at its true worth. Commercial fever swept the regional committee after the commercial structures of the Komsomol were exempted from taxes for the test. In order not to lose face in front of their younger brother, the Komsomol, the party apparatchiks began to look for their own ways into commerce. Everything was easy. The CPSU was a powerful, influential organization, and many newborn firms happily threw themselves under its wing.

Agreements were concluded with the inhabitants of Smolny for substantial sums, and in exchange they provided the firms with a "green light" where the "red" was indisputably burned for all others. Whether it was about obtaining premises, about good orders, about providing bank loans, about tax benefits - everywhere the regional committee quickly and efficiently resolved all issues. They would pay money and share profits. By creating the bank "Russia", the regional committee of the CPSU attracted its clients as shareholders, such as the PTO "Russian Video", which was even allocated premises in Smolny itself, the insurance company "Rus" and the vice-rector of the Polytechnic Institute Professor Shlepkov. When the bank was created, the main share in the authorized fund - 15 million rubles - was naturally contributed by the CPSU OK (Kruchina has not yet sent his 50 million). Russian Video, which was supposed to contribute 13 million, could not raise the required amount and had to borrow from the regional committee. Naturally,

therefore, Arkady Krutikhin, manager of the regional committee of the CPSU, became the chairman of the board of the new bank.

It would seem that everything is fine, but then the law on banks arrived in time, which Kruchin punched through with such firmness, having well mastered the method of Colonel Veselovsky. The law on banks of the RSFSR required the return of the share contribution to the regional committee of the CPSU.

Before returning 15 million rubles to the regional committee, the chairman of the council, Krutikhin, manager of the affairs of the regional committee, was removed from the bank's council. This is natural and understandable: the money is leaving, and their manager is also leaving.

At the same time, a new person was introduced into the composition and elected chairman, as it were, the deputy chairman of the board of the Dynamic Transfer company, A. A. Krutikhin. The "new face" brought to the bank instead of the previous "party" 15 million new, "non-partisan" 15 million - a share of the company "Dynamec Transfer". The instantaneous transformation of the chairman of the board of the Krutikhin bank from the manager of the affairs of the OK CPSU into a businessman from the Dynamic Transfer company happened as if by magic, as well as the transformation of 15 party million.

And then 50 million from Kruchina arrived in time, and things generally went uphill. Part of the funds was transferred to the joint Soviet-Belgian enterprise "Dynamec Transfer" with a legal address at the Polytechnic Institute (which is why Professor Shlepkov was among the founders). The joint venture, in turn, allocated funds for the creation of the insurance company "Rus", and the businessman Krutikhin, at the expense of this very society, began to regularly run into Belgium, founding new joint ventures and investing income in various banks. The soul of this whole company was the CPSU ideologue Viktor Yefimov, who, after an unsuccessful attempt to break into people's deputies, spat on politics and decided to devote himself to business.

More subtly, but on a larger scale, the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU acted.

Clearly, he had more experience. What kind of things were being done back in the days of Grishin? Even Yeltsin himself was grimaced when he decided to impose party discipline in the city committee. The current First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee, Yuri Prokofiev, was by nature a quiet man, but smart and cunning. In this, he very favorably differed from his Leningrad colleague Boris Gidasov, who, although he was a professor of chemistry, acted with the impudence and straightforwardness of a combatant sergeant major. Prokofiev acted in tandem with Balashov, First Secretary of the Moscow Regional Committee of the CPSU.[40] The two far-sighted First Secretaries of the Moscow city committee and the regional committee of the CPSU quite rightly sounded the alarm about the fact that soon all the rightly and unjustly acquired party property would be nationalized. In this regard, they sent a note upstairs, where they sensibly outlined a way to quickly and reliably hide everything that was possible. At the top to the initiative of vols. Prokofieva and Balashova were sympathetic. The manager of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Kruchina, in a top secret directive, approved the idea of creating a joint-stock company with the transfer to its balance sheet of fixed assets of party bodies worth 116.6 million rubles. And four days later, the Secretariat of the Central Committee adopted the corresponding resolution:

Top secret.

RESOLUTION

Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

About the note vols. Prokofiev Yu. A. and Balashova B. I.

1. Agree (crossed out: "exceptionally") with the proposal of the First Secretaries

Moscow city and regional committees of the party vols. Yu. A. Prokofiev and B. I. Balashov on the transfer of fixed assets of the city and regional party organizations to the balance sheet of a joint-stock company created with the participation of these party committees.

2. Take into account that 60% of the shares of the specified joint-stock company will belong to the CPSU represented by the Moscow city committee and the regional party committee.

3. To assign responsibility for ensuring the property interests and rights of the CPSU in resolving issues of the creation and functioning of a joint-stock company to vols. Yu. A. Prokofiev and B. I. Balashova.

But no matter how exciting the events in the regional and regional committees of the CPSU were, they still could not be compared with what was happening at the top of the Party-State pyramid, where everything was visible from above. The party waged a fierce war for its property against the insolent public, constantly calling for help from the special forces of the KGB, paratroopers, internal troops, and when property finally slipped out of their hands, then tanks. Shots were already being fired in Vilnius and Riga, where the encroachment on party property was especially zealous. But even worse news came from the southern republics. There, as it were, no one encroached on party property, but the party apparatchiks themselves stopped paying tribute to Moscow, yelled about national independence and swore at the same time not by Lenin, but by the Koran.

The last remnants of the imperial forces, grouped around the chairman of the KGB Kryuchkov and a handful of military and party orthodoxies, frantically tried to prevent the already completely obvious collapse of communism as an ideology in order to maintain their power over the vast empire. In desperation, they again remembered Saddam Hussein. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the war between Iraq and Iran, as unnecessary, subsided on its own. Both sides lost about a million people each and were very proud of it. Hussein languished from idleness, lazily scolding Israel. They found him a job. The plan seemed very promising. Hussein attacks neighboring Kuwait and occupies it. The purely symbolic guards of the Kuwaiti Emir, of course, will not be able to offer any resistance to Saddam's million-strong army, armed to the teeth with the latest Soviet technology and having experience of almost a decade of war with Iran. Hussein will get the richest oil fields of Kuwait, which joins Iraq as a province.

The plan was based on the fact that the United States would never put up with such an international robbery and would be forced to go to war with Iraq, because if they did not, they would completely lose their prestige as a world power. And if they do, they will get stuck, as in Vietnam, in a long and bloody war. And since the USSR is bound with Iraq by a treaty of friendship, the United States will henceforth have to pay not for the consistent implementation of "democratic reforms" in the USSR, but for the fact that the USSR remains neutral. This would immediately ease the economic and financial pressure on the Soviet Union from the West and allow Gorbachev's reforms to be curtailed.

Hussein readily agreed. He himself has long coveted the untold wealth of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Having stipulated moral support from the USSR and his personal fee of 2 billion dollars, Hussein ordered his army to occupy Kuwait, which was done within 30 hours without any losses. As expected, the US immediately began moving troops to Saudi Arabia, whose cowardly king himself called on Washington for help. Under the cover of Saddam Hussein, the party emerged from the trenches and tried to regain its former power and greatness in the country.

However, this happened in the midst of negotiations for new loans that were being conducted in the United States and

Europe Gorbachev and Shevardnadze. Both immediately condemned the occupation of Kuwait, putting Hussein in a completely stupid position.

The Orthodox put pressure on Gorbachev and scandalized him in the press and the Supreme Council, and even organized demonstrations with portraits of Saddam Hussein.

Everything was done to dissociate itself from the US and the West and try to turn the unruly Soviet ship on the old Leninist-Stalinist course.

But the great politician Gorbachev, a most unique phenomenon in an era of general collapse and degradation, towering many heads above the faceless crowd of partortodoxes screaming in anticipation of their own death, learned to maneuver superbly in the ocean of mediocrity, controlling its storms and calms at his own discretion. Boldly manoeuvring, with every step he took he finished off the stillborn system, leading the nomenclature out of the deadly impasse where his hapless predecessors had brought it. And the overwhelming majority of the nomenklatura saw the last general secretary as their savior, supporting Gorbachev's political balancing act and forcing the orthodox who did not understand anything into the dustbin of history.

In the midst of these events, even Shevardnadze could not stand it, effectively resigning right from the rostrum of the congress. He saw the impending collapse of the USSR, and the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the dying state had already ceased to suit him.

His thoughts were already in his native Georgia.

Meanwhile, the Americans defeated the army of "comrade" Hussein so quickly and decisively that no one in Moscow could immediately understand what had happened.

Battle-hardened Iraqi soldiers surrendered by the thousands, Kuwait was liberated in a day, the road to Baghdad was opened for American tanks. But the most important thing was not in this, but in the fact that the United States demonstrated such new generation weapons systems, such new ways of conducting electronic warfare, such coordination of the actions of various branches of the armed forces that Soviet generals and the military-industrial complex could only dream of.

Washington made it clear that in addition to the means of economic and financial offensive, it could also support the dollar by means more understandable to Soviet thinking. The great plan for economic world domination was entering its final phase, showing off its steel muscles.

The collapse of the plan to involve the United States in a long war brought the entire anti-Gorbachev opposition, swept into a heap by the processes taking place in the country and the world, into a state of shock. While the opposition was in this state, Boris Yeltsin became the president of the RSFSR, who succeeded on the promise to departite all state structures of Russia, and fulfilled this promise by issuing a special Decree on departization. At the same time, Gorbachev created the All-Army Party Committee, ordering Kruchina to transfer 600 million rubles to the account of the new party monster. Only future historians will truly be able to appreciate the foresight and composure of this brilliant politician who arose in the USSR like a porcini mushroom among fly agarics. Kruchina could no longer cope with the volume of cases that he still had to solve. From retirement, his predecessor, eighty-year-old Georgy Pavlov (not to be confused with Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov), whose vast experience and enormous, despite his age, efficiency, made it possible to more quickly sort out piles of problems, was called to help.

Directive....

The Commission for Expert Evaluation of the Property of the CPSU, which is under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU, will analyze title documents for 49 large administrative, medical and health-improving and industrial complexes of the Administrative Department (including health resorts, country farms, hotels, administrative buildings of the apparatus of the Central Committee of the CPSU, transport part, consumer services enterprises, warehouse facilities) with a total value of 778 million 749 thousand 500 rubles, as well as for the facilities of the CPSU publishing house Pravda, Panorama, Politizdat, the Krasny Proletarian printing house (including buildings, structures, machines, equipment and other fixed assets) with a total value of 393 million 400 thousand rubles and objects of the central party buildings - buildings and structures and other fixed assets of the Academy of Social Sciences, the Institute of Contemporary Social Problems, the Institute of the History and Theory of Socialism, the Central Museum of V. I. Lenin with a state historical reserve "Gorki Leninskie" with a total cost of 124 million 691 thousand rubles. In total, 60 complexes were subjected to expert evaluation with a total balance sheet value of 1 billion 296 million 841 thousand 100 rubles

For some objects, however, it was not possible to fully issue title documents. Thus, there are no decisions on the allocation of land plots for the Nagornoye rest house and the Skhodnya holiday village, no state acts were issued for the right to use land for the Ozera rest house, the Chinara boarding house, and the Miskhor dacha department. The Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU is taking additional measures to draw up the missing documents, however, the local councils of people's deputies, whose competence includes resolving these issues, do not always take a constructive position

In order to create additional guarantees against possible claims to objects of party property, as well as to reduce the party budget for their maintenance, we consider it appropriate to carry out the following measures. At the facilities of the Department of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU (including enterprises, health resorts, country farms, etc.), for which there are all the necessary documentary evidence of the CPSU's ownership right, to carry out economic activities in accordance with the USSR Law "On Enterprises in the USSR" ... the basis of some farms to organize limited liability companies, joint-stock companies. Create joint ventures with the involvement of Soviet and foreign legal entities.

Separate objects of administrative, industrial, economic and medical purposes of the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU, for which there are no necessary title documents that fully confirm their belonging to the property of the CPSU, to be leased for a long period to reliable Soviet and foreign partners ...

Manager of the Central Committee of the CPSU N. E. Kruchina.

In addition to real estate, it was necessary to think about the money of the CPSU, investing it in a whole network of banks created through nominees and firms. The CPSU, of course, considered in general all the country's money as its own property and behaved accordingly.

Kruchin has already attracted the USSR Ministry of Finance, headed by the new minister Orlov, to close cooperation. With the help of the Ministry of Finance, the CPSU actually became the owner of the largest Avtobank, transferring 1 billion rubles to its account.

N. Raevskaya, the wife of the First Deputy Minister of Finance V. Raevsky, became the chairman of the board of Avtobank. Cared for from both sides, Avtobank literally bathed in excess profits. Head of the Main Budget Department of the USSR Ministry of Finance V. Barchuk (now

First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of Russia) gave the party "Avtobank" an incredible gift for any state: he was granted the right to collect debts from state-owned enterprises, which is the blue dream of every banker.

(Now the same V. Barchuk is the co-chairman of the commission of inquiry, trying to figure out how this could happen?)

But Avtobank was a drop in the ocean. Kruchina carefully looked through the secret list of banks owned or dependent on the CPSU, where party money was feverishly shoved:

1. Autobank - 1 billion rubles at 7% per annum.
2. Bank of Trade Unions of the USSR - 500 million rubles at 4.5%.
3. Tokobank - 150 million rubles at 7% + 70 million share contribution.
4. Youth Commercial Bank - 275 million rubles at 9%.
5. Unikombank - 500 million rubles at 10%.
6. Chasprombank - 30 million rubles at 7%.
7. Stankinbank - 50 million rubles at 10%.
8. Rossiya Bank (through Len. OK CPSU) - 50 million rubles at 6%.
9. Glavmoststroybank - 90 million rubles at 10%.
10. Kazkompartbank (through the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan) - 100 million rubles at 10%.
11. Soviet Fund for the Development and Support of Small Enterprises - 40 million rubles at 10%.
12. Experimental association "Logos" - 40 million rubles at 15%.
13. Trading and manufacturing enterprise "Shiva" - 5 million rubles.
14. All-Union Association of New Economic Forms and Social Initiatives - 60 million rubles at 10%.
15. Corporation "Soyuz-V" - 200 million rubles at 6%.
16. Small enterprise "Galaktik" - 250 million rubles at 12%.
17. Troitsk Institute for Innovation and Fusion Research (through MP Galaktik) - 50 million rubles.
18. Jobrus Limited Liability Company - 50 million rubles at 6%.
19. Production and commercial company "Holding LTD" - 50 million rubles at 6%.
20. Moscow municipal organization - 50 million rubles at 6%.
21. Russian creative association "Fatherland" - 1.125 million rubles (for the creation of a film) - 25% of the profit from the rental.
22. TO "Ochag" - 10 million rubles (for the creation of a movie) - 25% of the profit.

Total: 3 billion 634 million 125 thousand rubles.

It's on the first list. Next: register No. 2, No. 2A, No. 2A-6, No. 3-B ...

The head swells from billions and millions. But that's not all.

As already mentioned, the CPSU, in its old age, gave birth to an illegitimate child - the Russian Communist Party. And a child, as you know, requires expenses, especially if he was born so hungry and greedy.

The manager of the RCP, Igor Golovkov, having quickly mastered the methodology of his cunning parent, back in February 1991 presented a secret report on the topic: "On proposals for the main directions of production and economic activities of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR." Referring to the Law "On Banks of the RSFSR", which prohibits public organizations from establishing banks, Golovkov taught his colleagues: "... it is necessary to search for founders. Such can be enterprises and institutions of the Communist Party of the RSFSR.

And it went, and it went:

"... In the localities, lately, party committees began to conclude more economic contracts that replenish the revenue side of the budget: for renting buildings, vehicles, and other party property. A number of self-supporting organizations established and co-founded by party committees have been registered... A self-supporting sociological center has been organized in the Primorsky district of Leningrad, located in the building of the district committee. The center conducts sociological research in the interests of the population of the region, and part of the profits from its activities deducts the RCP and the RK CPSU ... There are also a large number of proposals, including foreign firms, on the deployment of joint production of computers, disposable medical syringes, television products, building materials and other products, as well as the development of foreign trade, tourism, hotel construction and so on. In order to solve all the organizational, technical and economic issues that arise, it would be considered necessary in this connection to establish a bureau under the Administration of the Central Committee on a self-supporting basis ... which could function as a central commercial exchange ...".

The young and flourishing RCP quickly began to multiply, for a start endowing society with its firstborn - the Liberal Democratic Party of Zhirinovsky.

The metric on the birth of the new party stated:

"The Administration of the Affairs of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR, acting on the basis of the regulation on production and financial and economic activities, represented by the manager of the affairs of the Central Committee Comrade Golovkov, on the one hand, and the firm Zavidiya represented by the president of the firm Comrade Zavidiya Andrey Fedorovich, hereinafter referred to as The Firm, on the other hand, has entered into an agreement as follows:

The management provides the Firm with temporarily free funds (an interest-free loan) in the amount of 3 (three) million rubles.

Before the ink had dried under this agreement, Zhirinovsky's party was born, who immediately nominated himself as a candidate for the presidency of Russia, and chose Andrei Fedorovich Zavidy, referred to in the agreement as "Firm" as vice president ...

The Russian National-Patriotic Workers' Party was also created: "The Administration of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR ... represented by the manager I. M. Golovkov and the Kirtel State Experimental Scientific and Technical Production Center, acting on the basis of the charter, represented by the general director Vankovich A. Yu ... entered into a real

agreement on the following:

The department provides the center with temporarily free funds in the amount of 3 (three) million rubles for the purposes set out in the protocol ... This agreement is valid only if confidential protocol-agreement No. 2 is observed.

While spawning nationalist and pro-fascist groups, the Russian Communist Party, nevertheless, remained the party of the communist nomenklatura, that is, it was most concerned with the personal well-being of its leadership. By this time, the country was already strangled by the coupon system - in fact, cards were introduced for all types of products, as during the war years. While feeding on the special distributors of its old mother, the CPSU, the RCP was energetically creating its own network of special distributors, expanding the boundaries of the nomenclature.

"The Administration of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR, hereinafter referred to as the Administration, represented by Igor Mikhailovich Golovkov, manager of affairs, acting on the basis of the regulation, on the one hand, and the Luch commercial and industrial association of the executive committee of the Kuntsevsky District Council ... have concluded this agreement as follows: ... The Directorate provides the Association with an interest-free loan in the amount of 500 thousand rubles ... The Association uses these funds to repair commercial and residential premises, including shops where employees of the Directorate and the apparatus of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR will be serviced. The Association undertakes for three years to provide weekly services to 400 (four hundred) employees of the apparatus of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the RSFSR with food products, including supplies from the Mongrifles joint venture, as well as industrial goods once every three months ... "

Watching with pleasure how quickly her newborn child matures, the CPSU did not forget her adopted children - the Communist Party of Eastern Europe, who, having lost power and property, disappeared behind new socialist and social democratic signs, headlong into commerce. And they were not averse to receiving dollars from the CPSU in order to invest them with mutual benefit in their own joint ventures, secretly created in the West. A. Pospevalov, Kruchina's deputy, was sent to Warsaw to share his experience. Upon his return, he wrote in a report: "Along with the use of legislative provisions that allow in some countries to have their own party enterprises, priority is given to the creation of structures that are not formally associated with the party. For these purposes, the establishment of private firms based on trust with party funds is widely used, foreign capital is attracted, and such forms of organization as a joint-stock company, fund, limited liability company are mainly used, which narrow the possibilities for the alienation of property for political reasons.

The communist parties of Eastern Europe were no less cunning than their Moscow patrons, but traditionally had more knurled connections with various small firms in neighboring capitalist countries. And they could be of great use.

Nikolai Kruchina quickly drew up a document "On the cooperation of the CPSU with the left parties of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe on issues of production and economic activity."

The decision of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU immediately followed:

"... To allow the Department of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU, in the prescribed manner, to participate in the creation of joint economic structures abroad with the left parties of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, bearing in mind that the founders from the Soviet side will be enterprises subordinate to the Department of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU, which are legal entities ... Give consent to the leadership of the SDRP for the creation in Poland of a joint

a Soviet-Polish company specializing in trade and intermediary operations, including border trade, the development of foreign tourism, the provision of advisory marketing and other services ... To provide funding for the participation of the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU in economic activities abroad, including the creation of joint ventures, through the sale through firms of fraternal consignments of goods and services purchased for rubles ...

To allocate to the social democracies of the Republic of Poland in 1991, in order to provide assistance, 30 vouchers to sanatoriums and rest homes of the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU, giving them the right to sell them on a commercial basis among their members or through representative Western travel companies ... "

The tourism business is known to be the most profitable in the world, and the CPSU, owning a huge number of first-class hotels, hotels, rest houses, campsites and sanatoriums in the best resort areas of the country, feverishly transferred them to fake joint-stock companies at a book value that was about 10 times below the real one. This process began with the flagship of the party hotel industry - the majestic hotel of the Central Committee of the CPSU "Oktyabrskaya". For this purpose, on April 17, 1991, the Department of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the American firm "Kangaroo" (actually a fictitious organization created by the US Communist Party) established a joint venture "Arbat". On behalf of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Oktyabrsky hotel complex, which did not have the status of a legal entity, became the founder. Responsible for the operation was Kruchina's deputy V. Leshchinsky. At the same time, the cost of the hotel complex was estimated at a book value of 3 million 450 thousand 419 rubles, and at this price it was transferred to the Arbat joint venture, although the real cost of the complex (useful area 5700 sq. M) is determined at 25 million dollars.

A lower level, the indomitable manager of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU (he is also a Belgian businessman) Arkady Krutikhin, having received Kruchina's directive documents, immediately obtained registration in Leningrad of a private limited liability company, Racemerge Limited. It includes Rosbri International and Atcherly International. Just ten days later, the Department of Affairs of the OK CPSU became the third shareholder of the new company, offering as a share contribution one of its hotels - the fashionable "Mercury" on Tavricheskaya Street. Three months later, in July 1991, the Leningrad Regional Committee decided to invest in Racemerge Limited its second Smolninskaya hotel, as well as the regional committee's garage and residence on Kamenny Island. The total book value of buildings, structures, equipment and inventory amounted to 13.5 million rubles. The real cost was 10 times higher, and in dollars.

Things got even tougher one level up. The International Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU instructed Prime Minister Pavlov and Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh to take certain steps in the upcoming negotiations with Angola's Foreign Minister Van Dunem to consolidate their influence in this region. The essence of the secret instruction was as follows: since the Communists came to power in Angola and neighboring Mozambique, both countries have waged continuous wars with their neighbors and internal opposition, owing the USSR \$ 9 and 3.7 billion, respectively, for arms supplies, without having with no way to ever pay off. But in both countries, back in colonial times, the Portuguese built luxury hotels overlooking the Atlantic and Indian oceans. Government representatives were instructed to demand these hotels as debt repayment and transfer them to the ownership of the party ...

The International Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Administration of the Central Committee of the CPSU were the most powerful criminal organizations in history. They handled everything from multi-billion dollar deals to trivial murders. They forged banknotes, passports, seals, check books, certificates, conducted terrorist and criminal

organizations abroad, fomented wars and ethnic conflicts, having connections with all mafia organizations in the world.

Historians, if they are ever allowed to access the secret archives of these communist structures, will need at least 500 years to tell the astonished world about the affairs that took place on the Old Square.

To implement their bold plans, the Defense Ministry and the Department of Defense of the Central Committee of the CPSU relied not only on the KGB and the GRU, there were things that even those were not supposed to know. At the disposal of the Department of Affairs there was a special task force that did not have a special name and so far conventionally referred to as the special forces "Z". This group had many times more rights and powers than the KGB.

Lenin created it in his time to fight the Cheka and the apparatus. Stalin strengthened it by making this particular unit an instrument of his personal power. It was this special group that had the right to break into the office of any nomenklatura and, holding his nose with pliers, demand a frank account of their crimes. Even the security ministers were never sure that at any moment they would not be dragged into the yard in handcuffs and shot. And, as history has shown, they were absolutely right. Now the special unit "Z" was engaged in a relatively peaceful business: it was exporting gold reserves from the country, which it was absolutely impossible to trust the talkers from the KGB ...

But the KGB did not sit idle, despite the extremely negative attitude of Kryuchkov to everything that was happening. Kryuchkov well remembered how his late boss and benefactor Yuri Andropov, in the throes of creativity, tried to come up with a new deadly label to replace the somewhat outdated and compromised concept of "enemy of the people." Yes, so that it could be stuck on anyone: from a cleaning lady to a marshal. And he came up with: "an agent of Western influence." It turned out to be a bit long, so, after thinking, we decided to throw out the word "Western" and leave it simply as "agent of influence" or AB. This abbreviation was supposed to be affixed to registration cards and criminal cases. It turned out brilliant. agent of influence. Agents of Influence Wives (JAV), Agents of Influence Family Members (CHSAV), Agents of Influence Children (DAV), Contributing Agents of Influence (CAB). (Remember, as in Lenin: those who contribute and are able to contribute - shoot both). Check life according to Lenin and you will not be mistaken.

With such measures, the late Andropov was going to fight the advancing dollar, but did not have time. Kryuchkov, seeing how the whole country had turned into a giant "agent of influence", somewhat belatedly tried to introduce an innovative term into the minds of people, but did not find support even among his subordinates. There were more "agents of influence" divorced at the Lubyanka itself than there were at the New York Stock Exchange. Not to mention the fact that all the top and middle management of the KGB had long looked at Soviet rubles with disgust, receiving salaries in foreign currency, entire departments did not even enter autonomously, but burst into the market, crushing competitors and not really caring about giving their actions even the semblance of legitimacy.

Any person or group of persons who tried to organize a cooperative, small or, God forbid, a joint venture that did not have a party roof, was immediately persecuted, closed, the owners were arrested, ruined, property was confiscated, expropriated, other owners were racketed, simply robbed with the same unfading revolutionary fervor, as in 1918. Even an attempt by Russian Prime Minister Filshin to make a legal "transfer" by exchanging 140 billion Russian rubles for goods for the population was thwarted by the KGB with a noisy scandal. To conclude the deal, the Russian government was slipped an Englishman Colin Gibbins, well known in his homeland as a Soviet spy. At one time, he was arrested four times for trying to transfer the latest military technology to the USSR. And although this was clear from the very beginning of the provocation, it was not possible to extinguish the scandal. Filshin,

Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, was forced to resign. The deal is broken. And when the private entrepreneur Artem Atalyants tried to do the same thing, he was thrown into prison without any talk. (From 1986 to 1991, 172,000 entrepreneurs were thrown into prison, posing a threat to the CPSU as competitors. Most of them are still in prison).

The KGB had already created a whole new directorate for the "defense of the economy", within which there was a department of "New Economic Structures", headed by General Alexander Sterligov. Working according to the old methods of the GPU from the time of the collapse of the NEP, the department literally beat the soul out of every entrepreneur who tried to establish at least some business outside the party structures. Especially high-profile scandals flared up around the first Soviet millionaire Artem Tarasov, who declared himself very impressive.

Being a communist, Tarasov somehow paid party dues in the amount of 90 thousand rubles, which meant a personal income of a million rubles. The KGB hunted Tarasov like a rabid wolf, despite the fact that he had parliamentary immunity as a People's Deputy of the USSR. The KGB broke into his offices, conducting overt and covert searches, seized accounts, confiscated goods, canceled transactions. As a result, a criminal case was opened against Artem Tarasov for "insulting the honor and dignity of the President of the USSR," since in an interview he accused Gorbachev of trying to sell part of the Kuril ridge to the Japanese for \$200 million. Whether it was a slander on Gorbachev or the disclosure of state secrets remained unknown, but the USSR prosecutor's office, represented by Prosecutor General Trubin himself, joined in the persecution of Artem Tarasov, who demanded that Tarasov be deprived of parliamentary immunity and put in jail.

At the same time, a message flashed that Artem Tarasov had transferred three million rubles to the Alisa exchange, which was headed by twenty-three-year-old German Sterligov, the nephew of General Sterligov. In the recent past, a student of Moscow State University, German Sterligov, was under investigation for setting fire to some cooperative stall that did not want to pay tribute to him. In the midst of the investigation, the case was unexpectedly terminated, and the unlucky racketeer ended up at the head of what was actually the first Soviet exchange, which, rapidly developing, apparently "on voluntary donations", turned into a system of exchanges and was the first to step over the country's borders into Europe.

After that, Artem Tarasov disappeared. Some said that he was in prison, others - that he was dying in the hospital after an assassination attempt, others assured that Artem had fled abroad. No one really knew anything, even the prosecutor's office and the police, who announced the search for the missing millionaire. Unexpectedly, President Yeltsin received a letter from France from Artyom Tarasov. He returned his deputy ID to the President of Russia, and in a letter he cursed Gorbachev, who ruined his life, as well as that of millions of other Soviet people. Immediately there was a rumor that Tarasov was killed, the letter was forged, and the deputy's certificate was stolen. Gradually, the adventures of the first Soviet millionaire began to be forgotten due to more dramatic events that shook the country. But suddenly Artem Tarasov showed up in London as a foreign representative of the exchanges ... "Alice". By this time, the Alisa exchange system was already turning over billions. How not to recall Babel's question again: "Where does Benya end and the police begin? Or where does the police end and Benya begin? In this case, it is no longer clear who is "Benya" and who is "the police." [41]

On the other hand, the KGB made an attempt that could not be called anything other than a desire to disrupt the party's transfer of billions of Soviet rubles for dollars. The British weekly Observer unexpectedly published an article by a certain Diana Miller, where she stated that ten large American companies had acquired colossal sums in rubles and intended to bring them down on the Soviet economy. Although this was true, no one believed it, as it quickly became clear that Diana Miller had recently worked as an editor at APN, known as a branch of the KGB, and was currently

was the general director of the Dynamic Transfer joint venture, founded by Arkady Krutikhin, manager of the affairs of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU. Such is the age-old tragedy of Soviet intelligence. At the most critical moments of history, no one ever believes her ...

While one department of the KGB organized an article by Diana Miller in the Observer, and another department exposed her as a KGB agent, the Minister of Finance of the USSR Vladimir Orlov himself appeared in the suburbs of the Swiss city of Lucerne. He flew in to personally supervise the fourth stage of the "transfer" of 140 billion rubles and make sure that the agreed amount in dollars was transferred to the appropriate bank accounts.

Meanwhile, Mikhail Gorbachev returned from London, where, while participating in a meeting of the G7 countries, he had a long and private conversation with his friend Robert Maxwell. From the height of the command bridge, Mikhail Gorbachev saw that the hour had come. And he gave the command: "Abandon the ship!" Ships under all the flags of the world went side by side, taking on board people and cargo, offering towing lines.

The rocks were getting closer. Gorbachev remained on the bridge, closely monitoring the situation. It was August 1991. The CPSU has practically disappeared from the life of the country. From time to time, the smart face of Comrade Dzasokhov appeared on TV screens, calling for the sake of saving the national (!) Culture not to demolish monuments to Lenin, then the face of the Leningrad regional committee ideologist Belov, distorted with anger, warning of an imminent civil war in the event of any encroachment on party property .

The Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU feverishly distributed the last money: 10 million rubles to the Academy of Social Sciences, more than a million to several museums of Lenin. Some other discussions were going on in the Politburo about appointments, transfers, the exchange of ambassadors, the ratification of treaties, about candidates for ministers and instructors of the Central Committee. They were so busy that they did not hear the command of their captain: "Leave the ship!" The huge ship was being carried faster and faster towards the sharp rocks. With great difficulty, the American and European rescuers managed to transfer the towing line in order to at least somewhat slow down the speed of the dying giant and soften the impact on the rocks. At that moment, a group of madmen, jumping out of the hold, where she was going to sit out, cut off the lifeline and snatched the helm from Gorbachev's hands.

They believed that the ship could still be saved. Raising red flags with a hammer and sickle on the masts, they gave "the fullest forward." At full speed, a ship the size of a sixth of the world crashed into the rocks. The huge hull creaked as it fell apart. Gorbachev, still standing impassively on the bridge, was knocked down, but quickly got up, threw himself overboard and was saved. Many accused him that he, being the captain, was the first to leave the dying ship. This is not true at all. As befits a real captain, he was the last to leave, making sure that all his people and cargo were already in a safe place. This event was called the "August Putsch".

Four days after the memorable events, on August 19, the activities of the CPSU and the RCP were officially banned, party property was nationalized, bank accounts were arrested. 14 people were put in jail. It happened on time. The entire nomenklatura, almost without a trace, managed to flow into the new structures of power, once again confirming its

unsinkability and eternity.

Nikolai Kruchina fell out of the balcony of his apartment on the fifth floor of the nomenklatura building in Plotnikovsky Lane.

Following him, the same thing happened to his predecessor, Georgy Pavlov.

Then a responsible worker jumped from the twelfth floor of his apartment

International Department of the Central Committee Dmitry Lisovolik.

In every case, and especially at the end of a case, a clear procedure is needed, approved as early as the Third Congress of the RSDLP.

On the other side of the world, dead (or still alive) Robert Maxwell fell overboard from his luxurious yacht. Even for him, the game was too cool. The body of the billionaire was found at sea three days later and solemnly, in the presence of members of the government and the military guard, was buried in Jerusalem. The less you know, the more you live.

Shaking off the old communist skin, the nomenklatura felt a surge of new creative forces, not clouded by Marxist-Leninist incantations.

The State Bank immediately announced a new exchange rate for the ruble against the dollar, bringing it up to 100 rubles per dollar.

The dollars accumulated by the nomenklatura, erasing the national currency into powder, fell upon the dying country. Foreign currency reinforcements joined them from all over the world. For a pittance, the remains of the national heritage of the perished country were bought up. A dashing nomenklatura privatization was going on and is still going on, during which the inhabitants of the "Through the Looking Glass" privatized everything that they illegally owned for 73 years.

Now, by no means, except, of course, Lenin's, this wealth cannot be taken away from them. The inviolability of private property is the basis of a market economy. That's how it was intended. Skillfully using their experience accumulated over almost a century, the nomenklatura again blocked food warehouses, directing goods to the currency exchanges, which they owned alone. More than 800 exchanges (there are only seven in the US) in a mystical round dance sell and resell goods to each other, inflating prices and finishing off the national economy. Nearly half of domestic trade has shifted to dollars. The dollar, having replaced the communist dream, has become a dream just as inaccessible to the many millions of impoverished population of the country it occupied. The huge nuclear superpower - the Union of Socialist Republics - collapsed with a bang under the onslaught of the dollar and ceased to exist. The largest army in the world, thousands of strategic missiles, tens of thousands of ultra-modern tanks and combat aircraft, giant aircraft carriers and monstrous missile submarines were unable to prevent a catastrophe and are uselessly rusting in the vastness of a dead country.

Without firing a single shot and without losing a single soldier, the United States, demonstrating fundamentally new methods of crushing, brilliantly won the third world war, defeated, dismembered and erased its main enemy from the geographical map of the world, leaving him to lie face down in the dirt and chaos and cry out to a recent mortal enemy for help and mercy. As it was intended.

...

The United States played its game, the nomenklatura played its own. Both of them won. Once again, Russia lost.

In the summer of 1991, the gigantic, well-established, tightly corrupted with the current government, "invisible" party country Nomenklatura and its economy went underground. Yesterday's political and ideological dictate was replaced by economic dictate, and economic terror was immediately unleashed against the people in the best spirit of the old days. The party still agreed to somehow feed its slaves, but it did not intend to feed people who imagined themselves free. And the Nomenklatura will continue to feed itself and be fed from the West. And the people, weaned to think and work, let them die out. He is no longer needed in any way.

The Communists came to our country in 1917 as invaders, for more than seventy years

themselves as invaders, and realizing that their time had passed, they fled like fairground thieves, once again robbing the people to the bone and destroying the state. Even geographically, Russia was thrown back to the time of the memorable Tsar John IV Vasilyevich, that is, to the 16th century. And in the yard is already XXI.

We only walked on the surface without digging too deep. But even what lies on the surface, no one is going to take away from the former CPSU.

In the post-coup euphoria, when it was discovered that only 240 tons of gold remained in the state treasury, some dashing guys from the Russian parliamentary commission rushed to the West in search of the party's gold. We met them there coldly.

"Do you have a court decision that the CPSU is a criminal organization, and its gold was obtained by criminal means? No? Then bye. We do not provide any references. Get used to democracy guys. This is not 1918 for you!"

While they were scouring Europe, another 6 tons of gold "flew" from the USSR there. Like this! In parting, let's see what happened to some of the heroes of our detective story.

Nikolai Kruchina died. (From August to October 1991, 1,746 mysterious suicides of nomenclature officials took place on the territory of the USSR. Almost exactly the number of joint ventures created by the CPSU. But there is no way to tell about all of them).

Kruchina's assistant V. Leshchinsky became a member of the board of the Arbat joint-stock company, which privatized the Oktyabrskaya hotel.

The hero of an unprecedented "transfer" in history, former Minister of Finance V. Orlov became a member of the board of the All-Russian Exchange Bank, which issues certificates of deposit to bearer, which allows you to transport currency to any country in the world without presenting identification documents and a declaration of the source of income, creating the opportunity uncontrolled import and export of gold from the country. Isn't this what the nomenklatura has always dreamed of since the time of Iosif Vissarionovich? And there is no dream that the Bolsheviks could not make come true!

Arkady Krutikhin, manager of the affairs of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the CPSU; unlike his Moscow boss, he is alive and well. True, he was once again expelled from the board of his own bank Rossiya. The bank survived the shock of sealing and, in a state of shock, forgot that it had accepted Krutikhin as chairman of the board of directors not as the manager of the affairs of the regional committee, but as vice president of the Dynamic Transfer company. But the shock passed, and justice prevailed. But if the bank "Russia" fell into a state of shock, then Krutikhin himself kept complete composure. Right on the day of the coup, when his chief Gidasov, urgently gathering members of the regional committee bureau to a plenum, ordered to raise thousands of communists to support the GKChP, Krutikhin transferred the Chaika recreation complex and recreation centers in Solnechnoye to the balance of the Vartemyaki agricultural partnership he had created (with limited liability). The book value is 22 million rubles. He is currently privatizing them.

Yuri Prokofiev does the same in Moscow.

The investigators, holding their breath, opened the safe of Valentin Falin in the international department of the Central Committee of the CPSU, but found nothing but a half-drunk bottle of cognac.

Comrade Dzasokhov said that he didn't have his own safe at all, and applied as a consultant to some powerful transnational cartel.

Gorbachev founded the "Gorbachev Foundation", where he warmed up his friend, Academician Yakovlev.

They say he is writing a new book. His last book, published in 1986, was called The Decline of Capitalism. Gorbachev himself travels the world on private visits, collecting donations for the foundation and honorary titles. Don't be jealous, he deserves everything. To destroy the communist system and at the same time not only survive, but also remain free, believe me, was not an easy task at all.

And the gold of the party remained in safe hands.

And don't look for it, because if you find it, it won't do you any good.

Why? Yes, because the world revolution, which Ilyich and Parvus dreamed of, has already taken place. The dollar occupied the whole world. All the means of fighting the invaders that we know are powerless against him. It cannot be crushed by tanks and not terrorized by partisan detachments. It can only be defeated by a stronger currency, which will wipe the dollar into dust, just as it wiped out our ruble. But how can such a currency be created if the party actually shipped all of its gold to the United States? It is necessary to work, but no one knows how to work and does not want to, and whoever wants, they do not give him. And to whom they give, they ruin.

And they do it consciously.

Over the country, under the guise of humanitarian aid, international guardianship was established, and it actually lost its independence.

Who and where determines its future now?

The Bolsheviks disappeared as suddenly as they had appeared, dissolving into those world structures that had once spilled them onto Russia.

The current government of Russia is either the rearguard of the nomenclature that has gone underground, or the vanguard of the new nomenklatura that is coming out of the underground. Don't understand. One thing is encouraging - no one is building communism anymore.

And thanks for that.

Saint Petersburg. January-March 1992

Notes

1

If anyone still doubts this, I can report that Oblik NPP has at its disposal about 50 photographs taken in the Winter Palace on October 26 and well illustrating the pogrom organized there. The album "The Winter Palace on the morning of October 26, 1917" is being prepared for publication.

2

Crossed out, forwarded to 10,000 - inspiration comes during creativity.

3

But Hitler had an apparatus for this purpose, and he himself did not leave a single visa on documents of this kind. And the leader of the world proletariat did not disdain to write such papers with his own hand, with an invariable compliment at the end.

4

The order, apparently, was agreed with the Austro-Hungarian command.

5

The so-called "international" troops proved to be particularly reliable in mass arrests in the cities, in the suppression of peasant uprisings and workers' uprisings. Of these, the famous "special purpose units", detachments, detachments to prevent desertion from the Red Army, and special detachments of the Cheka were formed. Such a huge number of foreigners in the army of a "sovereign" country most of all speaks of how sovereign the "Soviet Republic" was.

6

The railway connection between Austria-Hungary and Switzerland was interrupted with the outbreak of hostilities.

7

In July 1916, Menzhinsky published a very interesting article about Lenin in the Parisian émigré newspaper Nashe Ekho, in which he wrote: "Lenin is a political Jesuit who for many years has been sculpting from Marxism everything he needs for the moment. Now he is completely confused in his theories ... Lenin is an illegitimate child of Russian absolutism, who considers himself the only contender for the Russian throne when it becomes vacant ... If he ever gets power, he will do no less stupid things than Paul I ... Leninists are not even a faction, but some kind of sect or clan of party horse thieves who are trying to silence the voice of the proletariat by snapping their whips. A strange company has gathered in the Kremlin!

8

Parvus himself, it should be noted, never held any party posts, he did not even have the right to vote at any congress. But for more than 20 years, in the apt expression of Solzhenitsyn, he "scattered ideas" for his stepmother-party, which were too deep for anyone to understand them correctly, except for Lenin himself, who managed to not only understand them correctly, but also brilliantly process them. for mass campaigning.

9

Prince Andronnikov, a friend of Rasputin, a former official for special assignments under the chief prosecutor of the Synod, who had access to the royal family, so juicy sung by Pikul in "Unclean Power" and film director Klimov in "Agony". The "world proletariat" had an interesting composition of performers! Those who doubt that Andronnikov after October became the head of the bloody Kronstadt Cheka, we refer to the work "Lenin and the Cheka", Moscow, 1975, p. 229.

10

Even our official history has already come close to exposing the myth of "Kaplan's shot at the heart of the revolution."

eleven

If we compare these events with Hitler's genocide against the Jews, then we must admit that the Nazis were much more humane in their own country. The enemy was clearly defined. If you are a Jew, you are an enemy; if not, then no. How lucky to be born. The same labels as "bourgeois", "enemy of the people", "kulak", "kulak" and others, could be hung on anyone and in any quantity. This is the main difference between a genius and an imitator, as well as mass terror and the terror of the chosen one. Hitler's task was to rally the nation, Lenin's task was to destroy as many witnesses as possible, having previously robbed them.

12

Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich is a historian of world renown. M. Gorky interceded for him. Lenin answered incomparably: "The revolution does not need historians!" Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich is also a world-famous archaeologist, the author of a large number of fundamental scientific works.

Just at this time - in March 1919 - the workers, deceived by cheap demagoguery, dragging out a starving and hopeless existence, turned into virtual slaves, made timid attempts to draw the attention of the "workers'" government to their situation, resorting to peaceful strikes. This happened in many cities, and everywhere there was the same result - the strike was drowned in the blood of the workers. A rally of ten thousand gathered in Astrakhan, at which workers of local factories and fisheries (remember the beluga and sturgeons at the Kremlin banquet) discussed their dire financial situation. Before the first speakers had time to speak, the square was cordoned off by the troops of the Cheka. Almost without warning, fire from machine guns and rifles was opened on the workers, and the square was pelted with hand-held granite. The workers rushed to run, leaving 2,000 people dead and wounded on the square (who were immediately finished off with revolver shots). Almost all the participants in the rally were arrested and placed at six commandant's offices of the Cheka in basements, on barges and in the hold of the Gogol steamer, which was laid up. Moscow was informed of the uprising. A laconic answer immediately came from Moscow: "Crack down mercilessly." Work boiled over. The workers were shot in the cellars of the Chechens, bound, thrown from a barge into the Volga. The corpses barely had time to be taken to the cemetery, where they fell in heaps right on the ground: half-dressed, covered in blood. On March 13-14, only workers were shot, but then the authorities caught on and, apparently, in order to shift the blame on the "bourgeois instigators", they began wholesale arrests of the intelligentsia, former homeowners, merchants, fishermen and shopkeepers, who had miraculously survived from previous massacres. Hundreds of lists of executed "bourgeois" were published. Workers were shot without any publication, but their executions continued until mid-April. There was such an impression that the Bolsheviks decided to take out their anger on the Astrakhan workers for all the strikes that swept the country like a wave in March 1919. No less significant executions of strikers took place in Petrograd, Tula and Bryansk. Data published in England show that 138,000 people were executed in the first three months of 1919. "However, this figure," notes S. Melgunov, the most impartial researcher of Bolshevik atrocities, "in reality gives only a pale idea of what happened in Russia." The workers could "boldly" look into the future, whence the world proletarian revolution was approaching!

These days the counter-offensive of the Red Army is going on in full force on all fronts. A new method of seizing valuables and money began to be applied. When the city was occupied by the "Reds", an indemnity was imposed on it, depending on the size of the city. For example, 400 million gold rubles were demanded from Kyiv, 500 million from Odessa, and for some reason only 100 million from Kharkov. The contribution was accepted by any gold coins, gold bars, jewelry, precious stones, sometimes paintings. In case of non-payment of the indemnity on time (usually 2-3 days), the authorities promised to shoot every fifth inhabitant. Some kind of contribution was made, then general searches began. Moreover, no exception was made for workers. In their dwellings (and most lived in their own houses in the suburbs), everything was turned upside down, and then often the houses were set on fire.

The massacres also continued. In Kyiv, 2,000 former officers were killed in one day, summoned to register in the city theater. In Petrograd, in three months (July, August, September), 5,000 people were shot. In Kronstadt, 20 doctors were unexpectedly shot "for being too popular among the workers." 100 railroad workers were shot in Yekaterinopava for attempting to organize a strike. In Ivanovo-Voznesensk, under pain of execution, the RVC ordered all residents to hand over their sewing machines (?!). In Arkhangelsk, immediately after the arrival of the "Reds", 800 officers serving under General Miller were shot. Convoys with officers and Cossacks taken prisoner in the south immediately began to arrive there. Those who arrived were shot near Kholmogory, where the first death camps were hastily deployed. The famous Kedrov personally supervises the sinking of two barges, locking 1,200 officers in them. An epidemic of glanders breaks out in Moscow. All identified patients are shot on the spot. At the same time, and patients with typhus. By secret order, the Cheka detects and destroys patients with syphilis. The capital of the future empire must be sterile.

15

The occupation regime established by Lenin in the conquered country, if different from Hitler's, was much more ferocious. Here is the order of the commandant's office with reference to the decision of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of June 11, 1921:

- "1. Citizens who refuse to give their names are shot on the spot without trial.
2. To the villagers who hide weapons, announce the verdict of taking hostages and shoot them if they do not hand over their weapons.
3. The family in whose house a bandit has taken refuge (that is, a peasant robbed to the skin, who dared to resist - I. B.) is subject to arrest and expulsion, its property is confiscated, the senior worker in this family is shot on the spot without trial.
4. Families that hid family members or property of bandits should be considered as bandit ones, and the senior worker of this family should be shot without trial.
5. In the event of the bandit's family escaping ... burn the houses left behind.
6. This order is to be enforced severely and mercilessly."

Another order:

- "1. The villages and villages that shelter the "whites" and "greens" will be destroyed, the entire adult population will be shot, all property will be confiscated.
2. All persons who have assisted the bandits will be immediately shot ... "

16

In November 1920, the "whites" evacuated the Crimea. It was at this time that Bela Kun, who had fled from his native Hungary, appeared in Crimea with the famous Zemlyachka - the very one that Stalin later, in order to rein in Krupskaya, who had bothered him, seriously considered in

as a candidate for the role of Lenin's widow.

According to tradition, it all started with the registration of officers, to whom Frunze solemnly guaranteed an amnesty. The executions began instantly and quickly turned into a massacre. The dead were thrown into the old Genoese wells, and when they were full, the doomed were forced to dig common graves. Crowded barges were taken out to sea and sunk. Families were also destroyed. Even women with babies were ruthlessly shot. They burst into hospitals and hospitals, shooting everyone in a row, not paying any attention to the flags of the International Red Cross, under the protection of which Wrangel left his wounded in the Crimea. Then followed the order to all residents of the Crimea, under pain of execution, to fill out questionnaires and hand them over to the local Cheka. Lenin, advising Trotsky on the necessary measures in the Crimea, wisely remarked that "Crimea was three years behind in its revolutionary movement. It must be quickly brought up to the general revolutionary level of Russia. Most executions raged in Sevastopol, Yalta, Balaklava and Kerch. In Sevastopol, the first thing they did was shoot more than 500 port workers for the fact that they worked on loading the outgoing transports of General Wrangel. They did not hesitate to publish the lists of the executed. Already on November 28, the first list of those executed in Sevastopol was published: 1,634 people, including 278 women. On November 30, the second list was published: 1202 people, including 88 women. In the first week alone, lists of 8,364 people who were shot were published in Sevastopol.

In addition to executions, there were mass executions by hanging. "Nakhimovsky Prospekt," recalls an eyewitness, "is hung with the corpses of officers, soldiers and civilians arrested on the street and immediately executed without trial. Officers were hanged in uniform with epaulettes. Non-military dangled half-dressed.

Hanged "for edification". All poles, trees, even monuments were used. The entire historical boulevard was decorated with corpses swaying in the air. The same thing happened on Nakhimovsky Prospekt, on Bolshaya Morskaya and Ekaterininskaya, on Primorsky Boulevard." The perpetrators, of course, were the "internationalists" commanded by the former officer of the Kaiser's army Behmer (In 1918 he was the German commandant of Sevastopol). His first order as a Soviet commandant was to explain to the civilian population that they "have no right to complain about the executors of Soviet power, since they assisted the White Guards." With monstrous ease, Bemer signed the execution orders. In particular, his order to shoot 23 nurses from one of the hospitals "for harboring officers" and 18 employees of the International Red Cross for the same "crime" has been preserved. Those who managed to survive were sent in thousands to concentration camps - the harbingers of the great Gulag, which began to flourish magnificently in the Arkhangelsk province. And what did Bela Kun and Zemlyachka do? They say that Zemlyachka sometimes personally participated in executions and torture, but this was, of course, a "hobby", and not the performance of official duties. She and Bela Kun spent the nights collecting, accounting and transporting gold and other valuables found in the Crimea. Terror, as always, was a cover. Of course, you can't take much from officers. But some people took a lot. But there is no information that someone was later released. Maybe someone was released, but none of them showed up in the West. Ransom was taken, and then shot. Values went in two ways: to the West (responsible Bela Kun) and north - to Moscow, to Gokhran (responsible comrade Zemlyachka)

At the autopsy of Lenin, doctors, to their great horror, found that one hemisphere

Lenin's brain did not work from birth. The second hemisphere was covered with calcareous formations to such an extent that it was completely incomprehensible how the leader of the world proletariat lived not only in recent years, but in general, since he had to die in childhood. Doctors believed that a person could not live with such a brain. So was it a man?

18

Discharge of Lenin.

19

Like King Louis XIV, Lenin considered himself master not only of life, but also of the property of his subjects. But, unlike the "sun king", he acted solely at his own discretion, since there were no laws in the country. It was necessary to solve one question: bourgeois or not bourgeois. The well-known professor of soil science A. Yarilov, known to Lenin since the 1905 revolution and emigration, was subjected to expropriation due to the ignorance of the perpetrators, that is, as a bourgeois, all his property was confiscated, including bed linen. The professor complained to Lenin. It was in Krasnodar. Lenin immediately sent a telegram there: "The Caucasus, Krasnodar, the Executive Committee. I ask you to return to the family of Arsen Yarilov all property, clothes, linen and other household items requisitioned from her on March 24 in Krasnodar. If it is impossible to return what was confiscated, I propose to compensate in kind. I confirm that Yarilov, neither by property nor by ideology, can be attributed to the class of the bourgeoisie. Presovnnarkom Lenin. May 30, 1921."

In connection with Lenin's telegram, the Presidium of the Kuban-Chernomorsk Regional Executive Committee issued a decision to return the things to the family of Professor Yarilov. Lenin often pointed out that in some cases only he could decide who was bourgeois and who was not. Involuntarily, one characteristic episode comes to mind that happened a little later in Nazi Germany. Gestapo officers arrived at the all-powerful Reichsmarschall Goering with documents incontrovertibly proving that a number of Goering's staff officers, including his assistant General Milch, were of Jewish origin. Goering got acquainted with the documents and told the Gestapo: "In my headquarters, I myself decide who is a Jew and who is not." In no way do I want to compare Goering with such a large-scale figure as Lenin, I just want to note the same method of arbitrariness.

20

The Americans insisted that their experts be able to monitor the distribution of aid to the starving, since rumors had already entered the Western press that the Bolsheviks were calling for foreign aid in order to, having received it for free, immediately resell it back to the West. It was hard to say whether this was intended or not, but when Lenin heard about the experts, he lost his temper. The leader immediately declared the commission of experts a "commission of spies", and about

American aid expressed the following: "The meanness of America, Hoover and the Council of the League of Nations is extreme. Hoover and Brown are insolent and liars."

21

All Soviet historians agree with this. Stalin took over the country in the most difficult time - the treasury was empty.

For some reason, these historians keep silent: where did the innumerable treasures of old Russia captured by Lenin go?

22

Trade Syndicate.

23

This romantic hunt for gold, changing forms, continued for years and has survived to this day. Even today, during any search, say, in search of a moonshine, not to mention any more serious reasons (and the reason can always be found), the authorities first of all offer the "scoop" trembling with fear to "voluntarily surrender gold, diamonds and weapons", explaining that voluntary surrender will mitigate guilt but will not exempt from criminal liability. Starting from the first decrees of the Council of People's Commissars, confirmed by many subsequent ones, a citizen of the socialist power, under pain of death, was forbidden to own gold and other precious metals in bullion (moreover, gold coins of any coinage, orders from precious metals of any country and any time and products of "cultural and historical value" were equated to bullion). " (at the discretion of the authorities), as well as loose diamonds and in products with stones weighing more than five carats.

24

Khrushchev had to work hard to expel Molotov and Kaganovich from the party after Stalin's death, whose role in the mass extermination of people is well known. But the non-party Molotov, as well as the rest, continued to quietly enjoy all the privileges, living in a huge apartment on the street. Granovsky in the Government House, relaxing in the luxurious sanatorium of the Central Committee "Forest Dali" and working in the Lenin Library in the reading room number 1, intended for academicians and foreign scientists, although the bloody old man never was one or the other. As it turned out recently, up to the present day, the Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee of the CPSU extended privileges, including the use of cars, dachas, special rations and other special services, to the relatives of Stalin, Zhdanov, Beria and many others who, for political purposes, had to be publicly recognized as executioners and murderers.

The nomenklatura through the looking-glass has its own laws and traditions.

25

In connection with the German attack on the Soviet Union, the following episode is of interest. The task set by Stalin to concentrate all gold, platinum and precious stones in the hands of the state continued to be vigorously carried out. The geography of searches was constantly expanding. If in Russia itself and in Ukraine by the mid-1930s even all cemeteries had already been plowed up and almost all graves had been opened in the hope of finding a gold watch or false teeth, then in the territories of the Central Asian republics such events were not held for the time being. The desecration of graves and mausoleums, according to the laws of Islam, is one of the most terrible crimes.

And since the liberation war in Central Asia, which broke out back in the 1920s, raged unabated, and was suppressed only by 1939, having received the romantic name of "the fight against the Basmachi", Stalin himself and his satraps on the ground still had enough mind not to give unnecessary reason to irritate the local population. But then came the turn of the Central Asian shrines. The beautiful and majestic mausoleum of Tamerlane in Samarkand especially attracted the greedy eyes of the nomenklatura. According to legends, confirmed by archival documents, the great Asian conqueror of the Middle Ages in his campaigns stole fabulous, innumerable treasures, most of which he ordered to put with him in the tomb. In May 1941, a large team of the Moscow NKVD, accompanied by experts from the Leningrad Hermitage, left for Samarkand to open the tomb. The curator of the memorial, 80-year-old Masud Alaev, was horrified and showed the visitors a warning inscription carved on the tomb back in 1405, the year of the death of the legendary Timur.

The inscription warned that those who dare to disturb the peace of the deceased ruler and open the tomb will release terrible demons of a devastating war on their country. Just in case, to be safe, this was reported to Moscow. An order quickly came from there: to arrest Alaev for spreading false and panicky rumors, to open the tomb immediately. On June 19, 1941, a huge slab of green jade, covering the sarcophagus of Tamerlane, was raised, as a TASS message told the whole world. The message, in particular, ironically stated: "A popular legend that exists to this day assures that under the slab of the tomb was hidden the spirit of a terrible, devastating war, which should not have been released into the wild."

This message was reprinted by many newspapers, including Leningradskaya Pravda of June 21, 1941. If this is a coincidence, then it is very strange. In any case, when hunting for gold, you always need to be careful and have a sense of proportion. But once they have tasted "lawlessness", they can never refuse it.

26

In May 1941, a seminar was held in the American city of San Diego on advanced issues of naval construction. The seminar was organized by the leaders of large concerns, connected with orders from the US Navy. At this seminar, Admiral Richardson, who recently left his post as commander of the Pacific Fleet, spoke with

a long lecture, the official topic of which was to be the question of the need for the fastest modernization of the infrastructure of the naval bases of the fleet. However, instead, the admiral gave a lecture on the international situation. Declaring beyond a shadow of a doubt that a clash between Hitler and Stalin was a matter of the very near future, Admiral Richardson made a theoretical analysis of the future course of events.

"Of course," he noted, "the one who starts the offensive first will achieve great success, since both the Wehrmacht and the Red Army are trained on the idea of a blitzkrieg, and not only do they not like to defend, but simply do not know how. A dilemma follows from this: what is more in line with our plans for Mr. Hitler to make the first move or for Mr. Stalin to make it? ..

The dilemma is very easy to solve. It is enough to look at the map of Europe and make sure that if Stalin unexpectedly throws his 200 divisions and 10 thousand tanks at Hitler (the admiral greatly underestimated Stalin's forces - I.B.), then the Wehrmacht will be crushed, and in a couple of months the Stalinist army will stand on the coast Canal and in Gibraltar. If Hitler starts, then only the Almighty knows where he will be in two months, because he will inevitably get stuck in the vastness of Russia, and Stalin will have to spend a lot of time to knock him out of there. Such a scenario, taking away the initiative in the war from both Hitler and Stalin, will inevitably transfer this initiative to a freer and more dynamic force that will inevitably arise when Russians and Germans clash with each other, leaving the whole world at the mercy of this new force. So let's give, gentlemen, the right of the first move to Hitler. By this time, the admiral was a private person and could, in principle, say what he wanted. However, Secretary of the Navy Knox, who was present at the seminar, said at the beginning of his speech: "Admiral Richardson very precisely formulated exactly what we (who are we? Roosevelt's Cabinet? - I.B.) expect from the further development of events in the world ... "

27

The case of atomic espionage is very dark. It is now known that virtually all Soviet "atomic" agents were "exposed" by the Americans, who, patiently waiting for the end of their work, did not touch anyone, and only when the USSR officially announced that it had an atomic bomb, they unexpectedly arrested almost everyone. The famous Abel's group consisted almost entirely of FBI and military counterintelligence employees, who, working as Abel's liaison officers, personally transferred all the secrets of atomic weapons to the USSR. This means that such a decision was made at a very high level.

28

This secret laboratory has survived to the present day, and there is no evidence that it does not exist today. Everyone remembers the recent revelations, when during a search in the building of the Central Committee of the CPSU after the failure of the August coup, hundreds of false passports of all countries, false seals for various purposes, from customs to banking, mountains of false forms, check books and the like were found. Judging by the finished product, the secret laboratory of the GPU of Lenin's times has now turned into a huge enterprise, no less than the Printing House. And the huge amount of dollars that flooded the territory of the former USSR involuntarily raises the question: did this laboratory switch to supplying the domestic market?

29

At that time, the US gold reserve was 14,000 tons. A little more than in the USSR, which cannot be said about the standard of living. The spending of the gold reserve was publicly and openly disposed of by the people, keeping government spending under control to the last cent. It is in this control that the basis of US power lies.

thirty

This most interesting period of Soviet history, from 1949 to 1953, is worthy of a multi-volume study, which, with a good pen, can turn into an unprecedentedly exciting narrative. The campaign to combat cosmopolitanism, conceived in the depths of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, was, in essence, nothing more than a resounding slap in the face of state security. While they were recovering at Lubyanka, they planted the famous "Doctors' Case", into which the Chekists clung like a hungry dog to a bone, seeing in this case a great opportunity to put the entire Politburo and the Central Committee of the party under the knife. While the Chekists, in the excitement of the opportunities that had opened up, knocked out testimonies from unfortunate doctors about their criminal ties with the government and party elite, in the midst of their work, on Stalin's orders, the all-powerful Minister of State Security Viktor Abakumov was unexpectedly removed from office and immediately arrested, and a professional was appointed to his post. party apparatchik Ignatiev. The first thing the new minister found out was the connection with international Zionism of Stalin's long-term personal secretary, Poskrebyshev, who was dragged straight from the leader's waiting room in handcuffs, but was taken not to the Lubyanka, but to a special prison in the building of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks. During interrogation, Poskrebyshev said that Stalin had decided to destroy the entire old Politburo and the leadership of the MGB, replacing him with new people, personally compiled a new list of the so-called expanded Politburo of 25 people (which, by the way, included Brezhnev, who impressed the leader with his valiant appearance).

A few days later, on February 28, 1953 (and not March 5, as announced), Stalin was found dead at his dacha in Kuntsevo. Then the army crushed the state security forces with tanks, which, in the heat of the struggle, forgot about this third real force of the "socialist society". And the wise party remembered ...

31

Quite complex kitchen equipment from the Kupperbusch company required special maintenance. A whole graduate of one of the KGB schools was sent to Germany to the factories of the company and received the qualification of mechanics for servicing kitchen equipment. Returning to the USSR, they began to serve the apartments of the nomenklatura, while retaining their officer ranks in the KGB system.

32

During the debate in the US Congress on the next grain deliveries to the USSR, a controversy somehow began: where is the logic? The USSR spends all its money on tanks against us, and we have to feed it for this. The then US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, replied: "Let them better sit in their tanks well-fed. So it will be more reliable. And then the shooting can prevent the advance of the dollar."

33

Therefore, such a public outcry was caused by the unexpected appearance of A. Solzhenitsyn's books "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" and "The Gulag Archipelago", where for the first time it was openly stated that for every murdered party secretary there were millions and millions of killed and tortured ordinary people. What should be remembered is not 1937, when Stalin settled scores with the nomenklatura, but all the decades of the communist regime, which consistently and mercilessly exterminated its own people.

34

Flatterers claim that Gorbachev's firmness was due to the fact that even then the future general secretary was planting commodity-market capitalist relations in the Stavropol Territory. Evil tongues, on the contrary, assure that Gorbachev took under the protection of the Georgian "shadow business" because they had already managed to present his wife, Raisa Maksimovna, with a priceless diamond necklace.

35

According to another version, Paputin shot himself because he could not fulfill the order to capture Amin, and he knew what awaited him.

36

There is a lot of evidence that the army was preparing a military coup in the entire socialist camp. It is not known whether this would be so bad, since, as the experience of other countries shows, there is no way from totalitarianism to democracy, except through the temporary autocracy of a military dictatorship. The plot failed because the KGB was on top. This happened immediately after Andropov's death. This is not the place to give details.

We confine ourselves to official messages.

37

Recently, the testimony of the former police officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Nodari Khunjgurua, who was convicted and thrown into the camp, got into the press. Appointed in 1978 as head of the OBKhSS of one of the districts of Georgia, he, introducing himself to his immediate superior, received the following parting word from him: "Your bread must be paid for, dear, whoever does not pay regrets then very much."

Khunjgurua refused, and then he received another offer: "Remove the storekeeper of the Kantaria tea factory in the village of Ordzhonikidze, and no money is needed from you." When Khunjgurua asked what it meant to "remove", he received a direct explanation - "to kill" ("the earth should completely swallow him up").

Khunjgurua refused in horror, the storekeeper was killed by someone else, and the too scrupulous officer was removed from his post. In search of the truth, Khunjgurua got to Eduard Shevardnadze, who had already moved from the post of Minister of the Interior to the post of First Secretary of the Central Committee. Shevardnadze listened to the officer and said with a kind smile: "Nodari, you should have done what you were asked to do."

Then your relationship with everyone would be normal." "My hair stood on end," recalls Khunjgurua, "I was speechless. So silently and left ... ". As soon as Khunjgurua left the building of the Central Committee, he was arrested...

38

The as yet unwritten history of Jewish emigration from the USSR has many mysterious pages. Some unfortunate Jewish hairdresser could be kept "withdrawn" for years for the fact that 20 years ago, while serving in the army as a clerk, he saw some secret document about the need to reduce the daily allowance for military service with margarine. But in the early 70s, a group of rocket engineers, half of whom were not Jews, left for America on an Israeli visa. The Americans, relying on their carrier-based aircraft, are far behind in the development of short-range and medium-range tactical missiles operating in the so-called "subsonic mode". In just three years, they were ahead of the USSR in this area, without conducting any preliminary research and development. At Maxwell's funeral in Jerusalem, an Israeli government spokesman, listing the merits of the deceased, noted: "Robert Maxwell did a lot to ensure the security of Israel." And not only Israel!

39

Maxwell had a very warm relationship with Gorbachev. The last general secretary, apparently, had no complexes. He allowed many firms, in particular the Japanese "Ikegami Tsushinki", to use their own image in advertising. Not free, of course. And the CBC news channel, owned by Maxwell, somehow let it slip that the president of the USSR was the director of their program. As Babel used to say: "No one knows where Benya ends and the police begin."

40

For reasons known only to the CPSU, in Leningrad the regional committee is the highest authority, and the city committee is the lowest. In Moscow, on the contrary, the city committee is higher than the regional committee.

41

The "police" - in this case, KGB General Alexander Nikolaevich Sterligov - is a most curious personality even for our time. During the "putsch" he was one of the most active defenders of the White House and even personally arrested his boss Kryuchkov. Then, in numerous interviews, Sterligov accused Kryuchkov in every possible way, especially pointing out that the former KGB chief was going to start hunting for "agents of influence", which could include anyone, even for wearing a Finnish T-shirt or German sneakers. In the future, Sterligov began to lead the apparatus of Vice-President Rutskoi, being attacked both from the right and from the left. The left could not forgive Sterligov for his "Chekist" past, and the right could not forgive his indefatigable passion for privatization. In a short period, General Sterligov, according to them, managed to privatize two state dachas and two apartments (each 80 sq. m.). As a result, General Sterligov spat on everyone and organized his own "Russian Party", whose ideological platform, in addition to fighting Zionism until complete victory, also contained a promise to give every Russian family after coming to power 1 million dollars (apparently, from the funds of "Alice") . All those who wished were issued (and are still being issued) the appropriate certificates. Giving an interview to Nevzorov, General Sterligov confirmed the suspicions of his boss behind bars that "agents of influence" were to blame for everything. Speaking in the language of the sea, KGB General Sterligov, having made the "coordinator" to the left, again returned to the previous course, which is gratifying. It is better to be rich and honest than to be poor but a crook.